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JAPAN'S SHIPPING INDUSTRY

AN OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK.

BARON DEN'S SPEECH IN KOBE

The following is the gist of an address delivered by Baron Den, Minister for Communications, at a reception held in his honour at the Oriental Hotel, Kobe, recently by people interested in the shipping industry:

GROWTH OF SHIPPING TRADE.

"Prior to the outbreak of hostilities in Europe Japan's maritime trade stood seventh in the world's list, but since the beginning of the war it has made tremendous progress. The mercantile fleet of Great Britain, on the other hand, seems to be suffering a great blow owing to the relentless submarine warfare waged by Germany. In the earlier stages of the war the shipowners of Norway and the United States, in common with their Japanese confederates, cleared large profits by their ships, which travelled to all parts of the world. At present, however, Norwegian shipowners do not seem to be reaping such large profits as they did at first. The shipping trade in the United States, on the other hand, has been making phenomenal progress, and American shipowners are evidently aiming at capturing the maritime trade of the Pacific as well as the Atlantic. This is a matter that deserves the serious attention of the Japanese, and they must be urged to do their best for the development of Japan's shipping trade. It may be remarked, in passing, that the number of Japanese tramp steamers engaged in trade in European waters before the war was not more than half a dozen, but at present the number of such Japanese ships is put at about 50.

SHIPBUILDING IN JAPAN.

"According to the latest returns, the amount of specie that has flowed into Japan is estimated at more than 1,000 million yen. In other words, Japan's export trade has been in a very prosperous condition. In these circumstances it is not surprising that the insufficiency of freight accommodation should be more and more felt, despite the building of new ships being pushed on with all possible speed. The only remedial measures available in the circumstances are the encouragement of shipbuilding and the raising of freight rates. The shipbuilding capacity of Japan has now advanced to 300,000 tons, though it was only 80,000 tons a few years ago. It is thought, however, that any further development of the industry will not be possible for the present unless Japan is enabled to obtain a less restricted supply of shipbuilding materials.

EXPORT OF JAPANESE SHIPS.

"There has been much discussion as to the advisability or otherwise of prohibiting the sale of steamers to foreign countries. In my opinion, there is no need for enacting a law for the purpose of preventing the export of ships. If Japan aspires to become a prominent country in maritime trade, there is no occasion for such a conservative policy as the prohibition of the sales of ships to foreign countries. Due care should, however, be exercised not to part with valuable ships at low prices, lest the demand for hold space be accentuated.

POST-BELLUM PROSPECTS.

"With regard to the prospects of the shipping industry after the war, Marquis Okuma expressed a pessimistic view at a meeting of the Economic Investigation Council last year. I am, however, of opinion that there is no occasion for such pessimism. In America fears seem to be entertained as to the dumping of goods by Germany on the restoration of peace, and a consequent panic on the world's markets. Such a contingency, however, appears doubtful considering the great scarcity of materials for manufacturing that is felt in Germany. It is true that Germany has declared her intention to carry out the building of ships aggregating 1,600,000 tons, but this is nothing more than a bluff, inasmuch as Germany is destitute of materials, especially copper. If Japan succeeds in extending her commerce, and her export trade is developed, the demand for hold space will be maintained and she will not suffer from a plethora of tonnage. For the encouragement of the export trade, however, care should be exercised to keep the prices of commodities as low as possible, so as to keep down the cost of production."

Japan Chronicle.

SAIGON RICE MARKET.

The Compagnie de Commerce et de Navigation d'Extreme Orient, of Saigon, in their report dated May 22nd state:

"Our market is quiet and there is no important business to report. The demand is weak and the Hongkong market, which had a slight upward tendency, is again declining.

The paddy still arrives in small quantities. The total amount of rice exported from the 1st January to the 15th May is 475,741 tons against 542,680 tons in 1916. We quoted to-day—White Rice, No. 2, Sifted Japan quality, Hongkong \$2.75 per picul f.o.b. Saigon, for May and June shipment.

JAPAN'S NEW LABORATORY.

The Emperor has given a donation of Y.1,000,000 to the newly-established Chemical and Physical Laboratory. The Government has already contributed Y.2,000,000, while Y.2,200,000 has been raised by private contributions. Y.3,000,000 more is to be raised by private contributions and the institution is expected to have a foundation of Y.7,000,000 when work is actually commenced.

RESTRICTIONS ON FOOD

IMPORT.

PRONOUNCEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH MALAYA.

"The Governor of the Straits Settlements and High Commissioner of the Malay States desires to bring to the notice of the public that the exportation of food supplies from the United Kingdom is strictly controlled and that the importation into Malaya from other countries is restricted. It is the duty of all to observe the strictest economy not only in the supplies imported from other countries but in all foodstuffs. It is also the duty of planters and others, who are in a position to do so, to increase the local supplies by growing rice, vegetables and other economic products.

2. Malaya has not hitherto felt the lack of supplies, but owing to the sinking of ships by submarines it is becoming necessary to divert vessels from one part of the Empire to another and the situation enjoyed by Malaya is changing.

3. The Government of the Straits Settlements is giving its consideration to the question of the shipping required for the needs of Malaya, but the vital needs of other portions of the Empire may lead to the further diversion of vessels at present bringing food supplies to Malaya.

4. The Governor and High Commissioner hopes that it will not be necessary for the Committee of Food Control which is being appointed to have recourse to extreme measures, and trusts that there will be no hoarding or inflation of prices by importers and dealers in supplies. If any cases occur they should be reported in order that action may be taken to deal with them under the powers conferred by the Defence of the Realm Act."

Singapore Free Press.

FAR EASTERN OLYMPIAD.

JAPAN WINS CHAMPIONSHIP.

Winning 47 points in swimming events, the first place in tennis, singles and double, and first place in Decathlon, the Japanese team finally carried off the championship of the Far East, 48 points ahead of the Philippine team, and 78 points ahead of the Chinese (says The Japan Times). The total points obtained by the Japanese equal the combined total of the Chinese and Philippine teams; the Japanese score being 126, the Philippine 48, and the Chinese 48.

In swimming events, and long distance races, the Japanese athletes had no rival, but in the short distance races, and field events, the Filipinos led all others. The Chinese excelled in Football, Volley Ball, and Running High Jump. Although the Japanese won the championship, it should be stated that the Philippine athletes fought well in all events, and, excepting the swimming events, the scores of the two teams were almost a tie. Especially it is regrettable that the Philippine team lost the baseball to the Japanese, as the Philippine team is excellent and had the good possibility of winning the championship.

The Third Far Eastern Athletic Games, were the first of the sort ever held in Japan, and were the first international athletic sports played in Japan, and the public interest in athletics and international games was greatly stimulated by the events of the Far Eastern Olympiad. The Japanese public generally does not pay any attention to athletic sports, and it was formerly only the students who witnessed the local athletic meets. But from the opening day until the end, the Far Eastern Olympiad was witnessed by an enormous crowd, and by every class of people.

A plan is now being discussed by the leading citizens of Tokyo to establish a permanent and magnificent stadium in one part of the Aoyama Military Parade Grounds. It is their intention to erect such a stadium that will make it possible to hold the world's Olympic games in Tokyo.

No world's record was broken in the entire events held at Shibaura, and the results of many events are far behind the amateur records, but they did much better than expected. Especially in the long distance races fast times were recorded; considering the bad course and cold weather. In the track events, also, several good times were made, and the record made by Catalan in covering 100 yards in ten seconds flat is to be regarded as wonderful, as the track was very soft on the day the event was pulled off.

In field events, the Far Eastern athletes are far behind the Occidental athletes, but it is probably due to their lack of proper training, and they are not used to take part in the field events. If the world's Olympic is to be held in Japan within a few years, by that time, the Far Eastern athletes will make extraordinary developments, and may be able to defeat the Occidentals in some of the events at least.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE.

NO. 1 HONGKONG V.A.D.

Lectures on First Aid will be given by Dr. Johnson, P.M.O., at the Helena May Institute on Thursday afternoons from 3.15 to 4.15, starting on Thursday, 7th June.

Mrs. Tisdall will hold classes, to which all V.A.D. members are invited, on Wednesday mornings, at 10 o'clock, at her house.

W. WILKINSON,

Acting Adjutant and Hon. Secretary.

HUSTLE AND WAR.

[BY ARCHIBALD HURD.]

The parrot-ery is still being heard in Germany that the Imperial Government counted the cost of ruthless submarine warfare, that the intervention of the United States was discounted in advance, and that nothing had occurred which was not expected. That is bluff. The policy of outrage and murder on the high seas was adopted, as was admitted in the "confidential" circular to the newspapers, because it was the best and only means of a speedy victorious ending of the war, and, secondly, because it was assumed that the people of the United States were making such large sums out of a profitable neutrality that they would refuse to abandon it.

Who now are proclaimed the money worshippers—the Germans, supporting their "holy hatred" on dreams of gold flowing into the coffers in Berlin, or the Americans, who, with a generosity which is their characteristic in all great issues, are preparing to pour out their wealth for ideals which the Germans cannot even understand? If 45,000,000 people, with a contemptible little army, and an overwhelmingly strong fleet, robbed of its goal by submarine, mine, and coast artillery, could change the whole character of the war, what must not be the influence of 100,000,000 people, with resources in proportion to the size of the population, and the extent of their territory? The submarine warfare was entered upon as an act of desperation. There is reason to believe that the much-advertised Hindenburg line—a thing of enormous strength—is a myth, that all the rumours of the High Seas Fleet issuing forth at this moment of crisis, with the odds so heavily against it, were invented by the Germans, and that, in fact, the enemy is in such a bad way that any risk had to be run in pursuit of "the best and only means of a speedy victorious ending of the war."

HOW AMERICANS WORK.

The Germans are half devils and half children, and in some respects they are singularly ignorant. They have failed to draw the lesson from our intervention. It was that the moral is to the physical as three to one in war. If they had borne that truth in mind they would never have dragged the Americans into the war in order to gamble with U-boats. The Germans are clever enough in science and industry, but they are clumsy fools when it comes to organisation, in comparison with the captains of industry of the United States. The American method may be illustrated by one instance. When the war opened an American citizen, controlling many miles of railway, was in Europe in his yacht. He went home and took in hand Boston port, realising that the need of the moment was a good outlet for munitions and other goods. At that time Boston was only seventh in the list of American ports. He collected all kinds of equipment from the great lakes to facilitate rapid handling of goods, gathered together thousands of workmen, and created an organisation. To-day Boston is not seventh, but second among the American ports; work goes on day and night in three shifts, and ships are turned round quicker than anywhere else. That result was achieved by the American system of transport organisation. The same methods will be applied to all the measures for assisting in defeating Germany by the supreme hustlers of the world, and the war will thus be appreciably shortened.

WOODEN-MERCHANT SHIPS.

Before the Americans had taken the decision to intervene, I suggested that the first step would be to concentrate, not on the big warship building programme, of which so much had been heard, but on small craft for hunting down submarines, and on merchant tonnage. That prophecy is being fulfilled. Scores of "submarine chasers" of an improved type—110 feet long—are being ordered, and now it is announced that the Shipping Board has prepared a programme for building 1,000 merchantmen of about 3,000 tons each. Everything will be standardised, and an output of about 200,000 tons a month is anticipated. This Board has only recently been constituted under the recent Act of Congress, and already the foresight of the administration is being proved, for it has the right to build ships and lease them, whereas a year ago nothing of the kind could have been done without going to Congress. That would have meant delay, and time is of the very essence of the business of war.

An interesting feature of the merchant vessels which are to be laid down on the other side of the Atlantic is that they will be built of wood. It needs some courage to put back the hands of the clock in this way, but there is much to be said for the decision. In the first place, there is a greater demand for steel all over the world than at any previous period; it is wanted in a hundred and one directions, with the result that even in the United States, with vast resources, it is not only getting scarce, but its price has been steadily rising ever since the demands of war became operative. On the other hand, America possesses—as we do not—enormous resources of suitable wood which can be quickly prepared for use in ship construction. But that is not all. Steel sinks, and wood does not sink.

A few bombs, a single torpedo, or a fusillade from a submarine's guns may send a steel ship to the bottom, but a wooden vessel presents quite other problems. A wooden ship may have holes made in her, but, as the pirates have learnt, it is a work of time to destroy her. Submarines must complete their task quickly since they run the danger of being interrupted by the arrival of armed patrol boats, called by wireless. They will find wooden ships a very awkward proposition. There are technical difficulties in connection with the building of such vessels, to be propelled by steam engines, but American shipbuilders had few rivals in such construction fifty years or so ago, and they have recently acquired fresh experience.

The Allies, as has been stated in these columns, can defy the submarines, at least to the end of the year. Before that time comes our own standardised ships will begin to put to sea, the American vessels will be passing out at the rate of about

(Continued at foot of next column.)

WOMEN AND THE LAW.

WHY THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PRACTISE.

[BY LORD RUCKMASTER.]

I am of opinion that a woman who is intellectually capable of qualifying for a profession should at least be permitted to try and practise it. She should be allowed to take her chance in the struggle for success with men. If she does well, then she is entitled to all the benefits which come to those who succeed, without respect to her sex. If she fails, then her position should neither be better nor worse than that of a man who fails.

I think much of the talk about women's sex disability, as an inevitable physiological condition, is not based upon sound premises. It is incorrect to suggest that all women are subject to emotional cataclysms. Women differ from one another, as men differ. My Bill to admit women to the profession of the solicitor is a permissive Bill. It merely provides that women shall not be kept outside the profession because they are women. It does not compel them to become solicitors, nor compel, or even induce, people to employ them. In France women are admitted to the Bar, and while women barristers are not numerous, I have never heard of any objection being raised against them because they were women.

Why should a woman be prevented from trying her luck as a solicitor in this country? My contention that she should be legally entitled to do so, presupposes that she has passed through identically the same course of preparation as men. If an occupation can be quoted as excluding women, because they are women, a decided injustice threatens to be perpetrated. If, for example, a body of taxi-drivers are anxious to exclude women competitors, and thus prevent the release of male labour for military work, they can at the present time quote the vocation of the solicitor to give force to their claim. It is immaterial what occupation is protected by artificial means. Rules securing a monopoly of men are not fair after the conduct of women in the war. The number of women to whom legal practice might be congenial would probably be small; but, however small, it is not fair to ask women to work during the war in the humble offices of the profession and then circumscribe their field of activity afterwards. I believe that with open avenues women would avail themselves more and more, with the passage of time, of opportunities to enter vocations now closed to them.

So far as the profession of the solicitor is concerned, the existence of what have been called "unpleasant cases" is no excuse at all for refusing women the right to practise. Certainly a woman solicitor would have the magistrate's court, and the coroner's court; she should also be entitled to appear before a High Court Judge in chambers. It is not improbable that, with the proper use of her privileges as a solicitor, she would ultimately be freed from the difficulty now attaching to her admission to the Bar.

WOMEN AND THE BENCH.

I am disposed to believe that the members of the four Inns of Court would be constrained to adopt a different attitude to the woman candidate for membership of the Bar if Parliament provided for her admission to the ancient branch of the profession. The qualification of solicitor would give women additional opportunities for becoming secretaries of companies, where a legal knowledge is considered essential, or, at any rate, extremely advantageous. So far as eligibility for legal appointments is concerned, there is nothing to fear. When a Lord Chancellor makes an appointment, he exercises his discretion as to who may be most suitable in every way. He ought not to give the appointment to anyone who is not, in his opinion, the best person, having regard to every circumstance, to fill the post. So, if women were members of the Bar, it would not necessarily follow that they would receive judicial appointments. Perhaps if some women eventually reached, for example, the pre-eminent position occupied by Benjamin at the English Bar, she might be chosen, very properly so, for an appointment of an important kind. If she were the best person for the appointment, there is no reason why she should not receive it.

It is not right for any class of people in the State to suffer from a sense of injustice. Many men oppose the emancipation of women without considering carefully the grounds for such opposition; but when men do bestow serious reflection on the subject, the opposition frequently melts away. The remarkable growth of opinion in favour of women's suffrage is the best evidence of this fact. —F.M.G.

three daily, the number of patrol vessels, well armed, will have been increased, and under the Allied and American flags there will be so many armed ships that the German submarines will be kept very active.

The point to bear in mind is that America is not a military nation, but it has never engaged in naval war unsuccessfully. It is one of the great Sea Powers, and its officers and men will very quickly pick up the wrinkles of fighting the pirates, and possibly improve on them, for they are inventive. The Germans are merely copyists, but the Americans are original thinkers and workers.

The war by sea is about to enter on a new phase. The Americans are real sailors, as they proved in the war of 1812. That development was an act of folly on our part almost as great as the War of Independence, which we owed to the ineptitude of British Ministers. The British and American fleets, though they have the same language and share many customs, have never before fought side by side. But, as Admiral Dewey used to boast, for a hundred years they have been closer to one another than any other fleets. The co-operation will be complete and cordial, for it will rest on mutual respect. That has never existed between the American and German fleets, and American naval officers have a good many old scores to wipe out. —Daily Telegraph.

PEKING NOTES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

PEKING, May 24th.

PRESIDENT, PREMIER, AND PARLIAMENT.

It cannot be denied that the situation here is very delicate, and sensational events may develop any day unless the unexpected happens. The "unexpected" must always be kept in mind when attempting to forecast even immediate events in China.

The struggle between Premier and Parliament continues. On the part of the latter the struggle is not being waged actively; it takes the form of passive resistance. Until last Saturday Parliament ignored the various summonses from the Premier to deal with the war resolution, and neither of the Houses met. However, on Saturday the House of Representatives assembled and, strange to say, there was a full attendance. Some members wished to discuss the war resolution with the idea of having it rejected, but the motion was not accepted, and the House, after discussion, approved of a motion which reads: "Resolved that the proposal to declare war on Germany be temporarily postponed till after the entire Cabinet is reorganised." This sums up the situation in a few words. Parliament does not intend to discuss any war measure so long as Tuan Chi-jui remains Premier. Though personal hostility to Tuan undoubtedly influences the hostile majorities in both Houses, they take the stand they have done against him on constitutional grounds, contending that he has acted unconstitutionally, and also that, as most of the Members of the Cabinet have resigned their portfolios, no real Government exists. In other words, they decline to recognise his "one man Cabinet," as they term it.

Tuan Chi-jui, on the other hand, has bridged, or seems to think he has bridged, the difficulty caused by the resignation of most of his Ministers by having these resignations not accepted. This, however, can only be described as a pretext which deceives no one and weakens, rather than strengthens, his position. In any other country a Prime Minister so placed would immediately resign. Perhaps Tuan has really considered resignation, and perhaps, also, recalling the entreaties which followed him to Tientsin when he resigned some two or three months ago, he does not wish to go through the farce again. But were he to resign and be called back again, as he thinks would be the case, his position would be materially improved and he could then, with some show of reason, call upon the President to take steps which might be deemed necessary for the disciplining of Parliament.

The President, who has all along shown a tender regard for constitutionalism as understood by the Kuomintang, is unwilling to deal drastically with Parliament. Even though the Tzuhsuns and their representatives who have been assembled here for the Military Conference urged that Parliament be dissolved, not because of its attitude to the Premier and the war resolution, but because of the impracticable constitution being drafted by the constitution conference, he has expressed himself unfavourably towards such a course. Thus the conflict between President and Premier which has continued for so long becomes more acute. The President has the support of Parliament. Parliament has the support of the President. The Premier has the support of the Military. The Military support the Premier because of their dislike of Parliament. Hence the question arises—Who shall prevail? If Parliament emerges victorious it would suggest that the Military are to be eliminated as a factor in Chinese politics, but a knowledge of things as they are makes it impossible to contemplate such an outcome at this stage.

Supposing that Parliament were dissolved, a new election ordered, and a new constitution subsequently drafted, or proposed to be drafted, there can be no doubt that the very first overt act in this direction would create another revolution. The temper of the South, by which is meant the more radical element of the Kuomintang, has been roused, and ardent republicans are in no mood to see their cherished political ideals abolished or even endangered. So that if China is not to have an internal war instead of going to war nationally against the Central Powers her leaders will have to "gang warily." Anything these days may precipitate a revolution.

The prospects are by no means improved by the departure of the Military Governors from Peking to their respective Provinces. They have shown them-

selves opposed to Parliament, they have taken counsel with the redoubtable General Chang-hsun at Haichow, and they have doubtless decided upon concerted action should it be called for. Reports from the South, too, are rather disquieting. Altogether the outlook is very gloomy.

With characteristic timidity the better-class Chinese are leaving the capital, as they always do at the prospect of trouble. Many have sought a refuge in Tientsin. Several politicians who are taking no risks have registered in the Hotel de Wagon Lita in the Legation Quarters. These signs reveal the uncertainty of the situation.

Of course it must be always remembered that China has more than any other country, a wonderful capacity for evading crises or surmounting them. The settlement of the revolution which dethroned the Manchus was a remarkable compromise. The deadlock of last year, when half the Provinces of China were arrayed against Yuan Shih-kai, seemed permanent, but was provisionally ended by the death of the Emperor-President. Such historic events furnish good grounds for hoping that a *modus vivendi* will be reached in time to save China from the horrors of further internecine strife and enable her to throw her moral influence and her material weight into the struggle against German military domination.

EUGENE CHEN.

A sensation was created on Saturday morning when it was learned that Eugene Chen, the Editor of the *Peking Gazette*, had been arrested and lodged in goal. The exact nature of the charge against him has not been made known, but it is understood that his arrest was in connection with the article which he published the previous day concerning an agreement between Japan and China, which he described as equivalent to selling the country to Japan. He has not been permitted to communicate with his friends, and the *Peking Gazette* finds in this fact confirmation of the report that he will be poisoned in prison.

Until more than a year ago it was generally believed that Chen was a British subject, a fact which was supposed to explain his immunity from arrest by the authorities whom he attacked so vigorously and so persistently, but, in a reply to a letter in the *Peking Daily News*, he declared himself a Chinese subject. His loyal friend Putnam Weale, however, states that Chen is a British subject and announces that he will invoke the assistance of the British Government to prevent official vengeance being wreaked on this very clever Chinese.

CHEN CHIN-TAO.

The trial of Dr. Chen Chin-tao, the former Minister of Finance, on charges of bribery and corruption comes off fairly soon. One source avers that the evidence accumulated against him is very damning. Another declares, however, it is unlikely that he will be convicted, the suggestion being that the Court will find that he committed errors of judgment, which, though faults in a Minister, are not penal offences. *Nous verrons.*

MUSIC ON THE WALL.

Summer is not without its compensations in Peking. At the close of a warm day it is pleasant indeed to perambulate on the wall, and pleasant still to sit in the cool of the evening and listen to delightful music discoursed by the Union Philharmonic. The first concert of the season took place this evening and brought out many people who might otherwise have remained indoors during the time away.

VOLUNTEER CAMP.

Part of the training this year of the North China British Volunteers in the camp to be held at Huangshan during Whitsuntide. Over seventy have arranged to attend from Tientsin, and Peking will send some twenty representatives. Something like strict war training will be carried out. The new artillery instructor, Sergeant Fisher, has arrived after having done his bit at the front.

DR. WILLOUGHBY.

Dr. W. W. Willoughby, the legal adviser to the President, who succeeded his brother more than a year ago, has left for the States. He will most likely be succeeded by Professor McElroy.

OCCULTISM.

A Theosophic Society has been inaugurated in Peking, and its members were favoured on Sunday morning by an address from the veteran Dr. Wu Ting-tang, whose subject was "The Control of Life, Physical and Mental." According to the published report of the lecture, special emphasis was laid upon the importance of meditation in silence. It is interesting to note that the harassed Minister can take his thoughts off the problem of Chinese politics and devote them to higher things.

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE.

I hear that the Siemens Company are unable to make a beginning with their several railways in China owing to the difficulty of coming to terms with the Chinese Government, who seem to expect money on the same terms as before the war. They must, however, realise that times have changed and that money is very much dearer than it was a few years ago.

SOME ASPECTS OF WAR TIME TRADE.

NEW OPENINGS SEIZED BY JAPAN.

[CONTRIBUTED.]

The pinch of war is being keenly felt in all parts of the world, particularly where commerce is concerned, and British possessions are by no means the only, or necessarily the greatest, sufferers by such war consequences as the shortage of shipping. Among the few remaining neutrals the position is, in several cases, worse than has yet been experienced in such places as Hongkong.

According to a recent arrival from Argentina, the whole of South America has for many months past suffered severely from the dearth of tonnage. Last year freight rose as high as 156/- a ton for grain from Buenos Aires to the United Kingdom, approximately a 24 day to 30 day run for cargo vessels, as compared with 12/- and even less in pre-war times, and it was only with difficulty that the 1916 harvest was got away. A very considerable amount of tonnage, under Government orders, was concentrated on the transportation of frozen or chilled meat for Army contracts, and further ships, above normal requirements, were allotted solely to the nitrate trade with Chile. This year there was almost a complete failure in the grain crops of Argentina, and at the end of March the exportation of wheat and maize was absolutely forbidden by the Argentine Government, so to that extent the Republic, though badly hurt internally, was no worse off than in the previous year. What would have happened had a normal harvest been reaped, it is difficult to say, for the situation that might have existed with the further diversion of ships that took place early this year was partly disclosed when the pastoralists and farmers sought to dispose of their sheep and cattle, in the absence of revenue producing grain, and found that prices had dropped by as much as 40 per cent., owing to the "frigorificos," or freezing works, being unable to get available stocks of meat away.

Coincidental with Argentina's crop failure, Australia produced a record harvest, and more ships were taken from the South American trade to shift the grain from Australia to the United Kingdom. How this has affected the trade with the Far East cannot be said, but it is more than probable the diversion of shipping to the Australian run this year will be abnormal. Complaints were general in South Africa ports a few weeks ago regarding the dearth of ships, and ordinary trade was badly dislocated, though naturally big efforts were being made to shift supplies of essentials, required either for military needs or the feeding of the people in the United Kingdom. Five and six months seemed to be regarded both in South America and South Africa as quite good times within which to receive goods on order. South Africa, has, however, had, and is having, her compensation for the dislocation of ordinary trade by the tremendous activity imparted to her ports by the diversion of so much traffic from the Suez Canal. The Union finances are buoyant, and they should be with an import duty of 1/- a bottle on whisky, and no apparent diminution of the thirst of the South African people or their transient visitors. In the case of the troops there is both at Cape Town and Durban the most strict regulation of the liquor traffic, and the scandals which arose during and immediately after the Boer War have not been repeated.

One of the Japanese lines has now opened a regular cargo service between Japan and South America, via the Cape, and the prospect of good freights and full ships is quite a bright one. The Japanese have eagerly seized the favourable situation created for them by the war, and the comparative immunity of their merchant fleet from injury by raiders and submarines, should give them a valuable handicap. Between Japan, and by-ports of the East and South America, the staples of this new line will be, rice, silk, tea and general merchandise, and homeward freights from Brazil will be mainly coffee, from Argentina, wool, and tannin extract, and from the Cape and Natal, wool. There is also every prospect of these ships getting coal from Natal for South America. The railways of Brazil and Argentina which are largely British owned have had to resort to wood fuel in consequence of the exorbitant price of British coal and the uncertainty of shipments. Ordinary steam coal in Buenos Aires two months ago was selling at close to £12 per ton. Natal should be able to land coal in Argentina at 25/- a ton, and a Buenos Aires concern is now endeavouring to develop the trade, relying on the regular Japanese service, and Scandinavian ships for transportation.

Japan is also largely interested in colonization in Brazil. An agreement is now in force under which the already large Japanese coolie population of Brazil is to be augmented by 20,000 immigrants per annum, for two or three years. This arrangement is under the direction of the two governments, and it means that Japan will always have a ready market of consumers for her special products such as rice, dried fish and other commodities, with a prospective passenger traffic to follow when the coolies of to-day become the rich homeward and outward travellers of to-morrow.

L.M.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET.

Messrs. Vernon & Smyth, in their weekly share report dated the 31st May, 1917, state:—

Since our last report of 25th May, we have only had 34 working days and one of these was occupied with the settlement, which passed off satisfactorily. There is, consequently, but little to report in the way of business, which has again been of a very limited nature. With the war settlement out of the way and no settlements of any magnitude to follow there seems to be rather a better feeling in the market. Shanghai market continues very quiet and featureless. Singapore market for Rubber shares is also very quiet and no changes of any consequence have taken place.

The following are to-day's wired quotations:

Alor Gajahs	4.25
Ayer Panas	11.60
Glencalya	2.55
Kedahs	4.50
Kempas	7.85
Malaka Pindas	2.75
Malakoffs	4.25
New Serendahs	4.40
Sandycrofts	5.00
Tapahs	21.00

Plantation Rubber in London is quoted 3/0, per lb. Bar Silver is quoted 35d. Sterling T. T. is 2/11. Singapore T. T. is 10s. Shanghai T. T. and the Banks buying rate for 30s. bills are both nominal.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai are unchanged at £705 nominal.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Have not come to business and prices are nominal and unaltered from our quotations of last week.

FIRE INSURANCES.—China Fires are wanted at £146. Hongkong Fires have buyers at the improved rate of £227, but no shares are offering.

SHIPPING.—Several sales of Douglases were made over the settlement at \$814 and market has now firmed up to a buying rate of \$82. Indo-China. Deferred were done at \$106 for the settlement, but market is now stronger, with buyers at \$107 1/2 cash and a good enquiry for August at \$110 1/2. Star Ferries can be placed at \$28 ex div. and Steamboats at \$17 1/2.

Ons.—Market has been quiet and no sales are reported. A few shells could be got at 109 1/2. Langkats are wanted at Tls. 17. Urals are unchanged and nominal at 33/-.

REFINERIES.—Sales of China Sugars were made over the settlement at \$105 and \$104, at which latter rate they close. Malabars came to business at \$30, which remains the nominal quotation.

MINES.—Kailans are in demand at 32s. 8d., but no shares are to be had at the rate. Raubas are on offer at \$2.50. Tronohs are nominal 27s. 6d.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, under settlement influences were done down to \$120 but are now stronger with good buyers at \$122 cash. Kowloon Wharves have sellers at \$77, buyers offering \$76. Shanghai Docks are wanted for the North at Tls. 85 1/2.

LARVES, HOMES, AND BUILDINGS.—This first been a very quiet market. Lands were done at \$95, which remains the nominal quotation. Centrals are also nominal at \$99. Humphreys are in request at \$8.30 and West Points at \$75. Hotels could be placed at \$100.

COTTON MILLS.—Scarcely any change is to be noted in this market. Ewos are wanted at Tls. 150. Shanghai Cottons at Tls. 121 and Yangtzepeeps at Tls. 5.70. Kung Yiks have probable sellers at Tls. 14 1/2.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Cements were weaker over the settlement and were done down to \$7.60, at which price they are now wanted. China Borneos are in demand at \$7 and Electrics at \$49. Tramways can be placed at \$6.60 and Watsons at \$6 ex div. (70 cents). Ropes are on offer at \$28. China Providents are nominal at \$8 and China Lights at \$4 1/2. Union Waterboats are quoted at \$13 (ex the return of \$3). Dairy Farms are unchanged and nominal at \$25.

Mexico.—Next Settlement day, 28th June.

COTTON AND YARN MARKET.

Messrs. Polishwalls & Kotwall, cotton and yarn brokers of Hongkong, in their report dated May 31st, state:—

Since our last report on the 18th inst., nothing of importance has passed in our market. In the beginning of the fortnight sellers had shown some disposition to operate, which resulted in transactions to the extent of 4,000 bales in known chops, while during the latter part of the interval a quiet tone has prevailed, owing to nervousness on the part of Chinese dealers, who are closely watching the most uncertain tendency of Indian Exchange, which so greatly affects our market.

Under such circumstances the Chinese dealers, to ease their holdings, are found selling lightly at current rates; hence our market has remained quiet but steady.

It does not seem likely that we shall see any lively business passing in the near future, as advices from India of a further rise in yarn in sympathy with raw material has prevented foreign holders from putting through any lots at present rates.

Total sales, 4,525 bales. Stocks are estimated at 18,500 bales, including 12,000 bales bargained for.

ARRIVALS.—The mail str. *Nankin* and extra str. *Penang Maru* from Bombay have brought in 5,075 bales for Hongkong and 6,700 bales for Shanghai. Shipments from Hongkong to Shanghai and coast ports, nil.

SHANGHAI.—Reports from this port show a drooping market, with very little business during the interval.

JAPANESE YARNS.—There has been no sales in this yarn during the past fortnight, and, owing to big continual fluctuations in the prices in Japan, the Chinese are adopting a cautious policy of waiting for a feeling of steadiness in the market. The following are the nominal quotations:—Nagasaki, No. 20s at \$198; 3 Horses, No. 16s at \$181; 3 Horses, No. 20s at \$191; 3 Horses, No. 10s at \$153; Seton, No. 20s at \$199; Blue Fish, No. 20s at \$199; Sandries chops, No. 10s at \$151 to \$153.

Raw Cotton.—The market is absolutely quiet and featureless. Quotations:—Bengal, \$33 to \$35; Chinese, \$30 to \$32.

INTIMATIONS

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

ALL SIZES IN MEN'S

BATHING SUITS

WITH SKIRTS, WITH OR WITHOUT SLEEVES,
From \$3.00 Each.

A.S.A. SWIMMING SUITS

IN NAVY AND BLACK, ALL SIZES \$2.00 EACH.

NON-ACTINIC AERTEX CELLULAR

GOLF SHIRTS



UNDERVESTS

WITH COLLAR AND POCKET

HALF-SLEEVES

THE USE OF RED GARMENTS IN THE TROPICS.

It has been definitely proved by the medical profession that the sun's rays in the tropics act very forcibly, but that it is the blue rays (known scientifically as the actinic) which produce sunstroke, and the red rays (known as the non-actinic rays) do not have any harmful effect. Heat alone is not injurious, as is evidenced by the fact that persons can stand high temperatures in Turkish baths, and stokers stay for days in boiler-rooms, without injurious effect, but heat together with strong sunshine often results in disaster.

THE CELLULAR Co. have therefore produced a specially-dyed red AERTEX fabric which is not a bluish-red, but is so carefully selected as to colour that only the red and orange rays are allowed to reach the body.

RECOMMENDED TO ALL OUTDOOR SPORTSMEN AS A
PREVENTATIVE FROM SUNBURN.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

DRINK
"BULL DOG" LAGER BEER.
SUPERIOR TO ANY GERMAN LAGER BEER EVER BREWED.
BRITISH THROUGHOUT.

Brewed in Great Britain.

Bottled by British Labour.

OBTAINABLE AT—

PRICES DUTY PAID.

Wing On Co., Ltd.

QUARTS—\$20.00 per case

Sincore Co., Ltd.

of 4 dozen.

Sun Co., Ltd.

or \$5.10 per dozen.

Cheong Tai.

Nam Hing Loong.

Ty Sing.

PINTS—\$26.50 per case

Sang Tai.

of 8 dozen.

Kwan Tye.

or \$3.40 per dozen.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

Obtainable in Canton from

SINCORE Co., Ltd.

Stocked by

THE HONGKONG HOTEL.

Admitted to be the Best

Lager Beer brewed.

FRESH STOCKS JUST ARRIVED.

Wm. Powell Ltd

TELEPHONE 54-8

SPECIAL NOTICE.

WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED.

A FEW CHEAP LINES

— IN —

LADIES' WHITE SHOES

\$4.50 \$5.00 \$6.50 PER PAIR.

VERY SPECIAL PRICES.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

HONGKONG, CANTON, AND MACAO
STEAMBOAT CO., LTD.

NOTICE.

DURING the absence of Mr. W. E. CLARKS from the Colony, Mr. JOHN AENOLD will act as Secretary to the Company.
By Order of the Board of Directors,
R. SHEWAN,
Chairman. [712]

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF
HONGKONG.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SZE YAP
STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED,
and REDUCED.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES'
ORDINANCES, No. 58 of 1911.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition presented to the Supreme Court of Hongkong on the 5th day of March, 1917, for confirming a Resolution reducing the Capital of the above-named Company from \$1,000,000 (One Million Dollars) Divided into 40,000 Shares of \$25 each to \$400,000 (Four Hundred Thousand Dollars) Divided into 20,000 Shares of \$20 each is directed to be heard before His Honour the Chief Justice on WEDNESDAY, the 6th day of June, at 10 o'clock A.M.

Dated this 30th day of May, 1917.
HASTINGS & HASTINGS,
Solicitors for the Company. [713]

CANTON-KOWLOON
RAILWAY.

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that from TUESDAY, June 5th, SEVERAL IMPORTANT ALTERATIONS will be made in the Time Table.

NEW TIMING OF EXPRESS TRAINS.

DOWN

Leave CANTON	Leave KOWLOON	Arrive KOWLOON	Arrive CANTON
7.25	8.05	12.10	4.10

UP

Leave KOWLOON	Leave CANTON	Arrive CANTON	Arrive KOWLOON
8.05	12.10	4.10	7.25

* Saturdays and Sundays only.

Important alterations have also been made in the Local Train Service.

For further particulars see Time Tables, which may be had on application at all Stations and at the Head Offices Kowloon and Canton.

NOTE:—For the convenience of the public arrangements have now been made for the publication of the Time Table in this newspaper in an abbreviated form. It will be found on the front page, and will in the future always occupy the same position.

By Order, WEN TEH CHANG,
Managing Director,
Chinese Section,
Canton-Kowloon Railway.

By Order, H. P. WINSLOW,
Managing Director,
British Section,
Kowloon-Canton Railway. [714]

BANK HOLIDAY.

IN accordance with Government Notification No. 239 of 25th instant, the EXCHANGE BANKS will be CLOSED for the transaction of Public Business on MONDAY, the 4th June, 1917.
Hongkong, 30th May, 1917. [710]

NOTICE.

MR. WILLIAM MALCOLM WATSON having retired from our business, his interest and responsibility ceased as from 31st December, 1916.

MR. JOHN DUFLOU HUTCHISON and MR. THOMAS ERNEST PEARCE will continue to carry on the business in Hongkong.
JOHN D. HUTCHISON & CO.
Hongkong, 29th May, 1917. [705]

NOTICE.

NATIONAL CASH REGISTER.

ROBIE WONGWAL, expert mechanic from its factory, Dayton, Ohio, is now in charge of the Cash Register business in Southern China.

AMERICAN TRADING CO.,
General Agents,
HONGKONG & CO., LTD.,
Representatives,
14A, Des Voeux Road Central,
Hongkong. [658]

WANTED.

OFFICE at the Central Location.

Apply to—FURUKAWA & Co.,
20, Des Voeux Road Central. [703]

TO LET.

NO. 12 BEACONSFIELD ARCADE

SEVEN BELLIOS TERRACE,
4-ROOMED FLAT at the Peak (separate entrance).

No. 2, "FAIRVIEW," 5, Nathan Road, Kowloon.

KELLEY'S CREST, 86, PEAK,
No. 26, BELLIOS TERRACE, with entrance on Conduit Road.

TWO GODOWNS in Duddell Street,
No. 2, DES VOEUX WILLAS, 51, PEAK (unfurnished).

Apply to—LINTSEAD & DAVIS,
3rd Floor, Alexandra Building. [70]

AUCTIONS

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions from the Liquidators of Messrs. JAMES & Co. in pursuance of an order of the Hongkong Government to sell by public auction at 12 o'clock (NOON) on TUESDAY, the 31st day of July, 1917, at his Sales Rooms, Duddell Street, THE VALUABLE LEASEHOLD PROPERTY situated at The Peak, Hongkong, and being RURAL BUILDING LOT No. 19.

IN ONE LOT.

The Property consists of:—
The piece or parcel of ground and premises known as Lybault, 104, The Peak, situated near Mount Gough, in the Colony of Hongkong, with an area of 124,000 square feet and registered in the Land Office as Rural Building Lot No. 19.

The Lot is held for the unexpired residue of a term of 75 years created therein by an indenture of Crown Lease dated the 23rd day of April, 1898.

The Annual Crown Rent is \$85.00.
For further particulars and conditions of sale apply to

Messrs. WILKINSON & GRIST,
Solicitors for the Liquidators,
or to the Undersigned,
GEO. P. LAMMERT,
Auctioneer. [597]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions from the Liquidator of Messrs. WIRZ & Co. in pursuance of an order of the Hongkong Government to sell by public auction at 12 o'clock (NOON) on MONDAY, the 27th day of August, 1917, at his Sales Rooms, Duddell Street, Hongkong,

All the piece of ground situated at Yauwahi, Kowloon, in the Colony of Hongkong, and registered in the Land Office as KOWLOON INLAND LOT No. 209.

IN ONE LOT.

The property consists of a piece of ground abutting on Battery Street and Fourth Street (near the Trays) in Kowloon and contains an area of 4,500 square feet.

The Lot is held for the unexpired residue of a term of 75 years created therein by an indenture of Crown Lease dated the 4th day of May, 1898.

The Annual Crown Rent is \$80.
For further particulars and conditions of sale apply to

Messrs. HASTINGS & HASTINGS,
Solicitors for the Liquidator,
or to the Undersigned,
GEO. P. LAMMERT,
Hongkong, 23rd May, 1917. [633]

HOUSES TO LET

TO LET.

SHOP to let in Alexandra Buildings.

Apply to—
SECRETARY,
A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD. [705]

TO LET.

NOS. 3 A & B, ROBINSON ROAD

Apply to—
DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd. [633]

TO LET.

"ARDSHEAL," No. 119, THE PEAK, newly done up.

Apply to—
CHATER & MODY,
5, Queen's Road Central. [614]

TO LET.

1 NEW HOUSE in Conduit Road, Ready for occupation. Also 1 GODOWN in Duddell Street.

For rent and other particulars apply to—
H. M. H. NEMAZEE,
1 Des Voeux Road. [602]

TO LET.

IMMEDIATE entry. Two very desirable SHOPS situated in Lee Ho Street, opposite the Grand Hotel, recently reconstructed.

For rent and other particulars apply to—
THE MANAGER,
HONGKONG ICE CO., LTD.,
46, Connaught Road Central. [601]

TO LET.

FOUR-ROOMED HOUSES in Gordon Terrace and Salisbury Avenue, Kowloon.

A FLAT in Humphreys Buildings, Kowloon.

TO LET OR FOR SALE
KOWLOON MARINE LOT 48 with wharf area 68,000 sq. ft. suitable for Coal Storage or erection of Godowns.

Apply to—
HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE
Co., Ltd.,
Alexandra Buildings. [638]

TO LET.

OFFICES at 2, Connaught Road Central.

OFFICES in King's and York Buildings, HOUSES in Clifton Gardens, Conduit Road, HOUSES in Broadwood and Mereton Terraces.

HOUSES on Shamone, Canton.

Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVEST-
MENT AND AGENCY Co., Ltd. [62]

INTIMATION

WATSON'S
OLD BROWN
BRANDYE
QUALITY.

25 YEARS IN WOOD.

A. S. WATSON &
CO., LTD.,

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS

TELEPHONE 616. [12]

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VOEUX ROAD, C.

LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press

HONGKONG 1st JUNE, 1917.

NEUTRALS AND THE WAR.

Day by day the neutral nations are finding that their position is becoming increasingly difficult as a result of Germany's ruthless submarine campaign.

Their shipping is being destroyed, their trade restricted, and their food supplies curtailed. The plight of those which happen to be contiguous to Germany is further aggravated by the necessity of spending large sums of money upon preparations to defend themselves against invasion.

Holland is in a particularly unenviable situation. An important maritime country, the freedom of the seas is essential to her well-being, and yet, with the fate of her neighbour Belgium constantly before her eyes, she dare not assert her right.

On the contrary, in the endeavour to avoid giving offence to the Central Powers she has adopted an attitude which must tend to alienate the sympathies of the opposite group of belligerents.

For, not only has she declined to avail herself of the undoubted right to arm defensively vessels flying the Dutch flag which were purchased mainly with British money, but she has prohibited armed merchantmen from entering her ports.

Nevertheless, she allowed a crippled German destroyer, which was driven to seek shelter in one of her ports, to leave after a protracted stay when her crew had been reinforced.

As the Allies have decided to mount guns on their merchant ships as a protection against the submarine, Holland is virtually blockaded herself.

Sweden is another nation which has played into the hands of Germany, though, perhaps, unintentionally. When the centre of the Sound was mined by the Germans last year, the Swedish Government closed to all but its own shipping the passage through Swedish waters which could not be mined by the enemy without violating Swedish neutral-

ity. By this action the Government prevented British merchantmen from reaching the Baltic, contrary to the treaty of 1856, which gives Great Britain the right of the most-favoured nation treatment for its shipping.

Another decree instructed the Swedish Navy to destroy without warning all submarines which were not commercial submarines found in Swedish waters.

As Germany alone employed commercial submarines this meant, in effect, that British submarines would be sunk at sight while German submarines were merely warned to leave neutral waters, which they constantly invaded.

Protests proved unavailing. Sweden's attitude was considered at the time to be due less to love of Germany than to fear of Russia.

If this be so, the introduction of the new régime should go far to reassure her, while the repeated raids upon her shipping by Germany, whose activities in this direction have been very pronounced of late, should make her question the wisdom of the policy of benevolent neutrality which she has hitherto pursued towards her Teutonic neighbour.

In marked contrast to the attitude of Holland and Sweden is that of Spain. Not only has the Spanish Government recognised the right of merchant ships to arm themselves defensively, but it has protested against the German submarine campaign, and rejected the conditional offer of Berlin to guarantee a safe voyage to Spanish vessels in British ports for a specified number of weeks.

The outrages committed upon Spanish shipping since then have counteracted the effect of German propaganda and created a feeling of deep resentment in the mind of the nation.

Vigorous expression was given to this at the meeting of Socialists and Republicans which took place at Madrid a day or two ago and was attended by twenty thousand people.

On that occasion a resolution was passed in favour of severing diplomatic relations with Germany and accepting all the consequences of such action.

The democracy of Spain, in common with the other democracies of the world, now realises that the abolition of Kaiserism and all that it connotes is a necessary preliminary to the enjoyment of peace.

The total output of the Kailan Mining Administration's mines for the week ending 19th May amounted to 64,253 tons and the sales to 73,559 tons.

We are informed by the Right Reverend Bishop D. Pozzoni that three Chinese Priests will be ordained at the Catholic Cathedral on Saturday, 2nd June. The ceremony will commence at 7 a.m.

Two D.C.L.I. officers who were in the Colony with the 2nd Battalion—Major A. W. Stericker, D.S.O., and Captain W. T. Brookes, M.C.—have been appointed General Staff Officers. Both have been decorated for services during the present war.

Major R. M. Crosse, R.G.A., formerly well-known in Hongkong, who will be remembered as the author of "The Cook," "The Idol's Eye," and other local plays, was recently mentioned in despatches for valuable services in connection with the war.

Brevet Lieut-Colonel G. B. Mackenzie, D.S.O., R.G.A., who commanded the R.G.A. detachment at the British Legation, Peking, in 1911-12, and was also stationed in Hongkong, has been promoted to Brigadier General R.A. Brig. General Mackenzie, who was a Captain when at Peking, was mentioned in despatches in February, 1915, and was rewarded with the D.S.O. and promotion to Brevet Lieut-Colonel. His promotion has been extremely rapid.

A very pleasant evening was spent by those who attended the whist-drive held in the Naval Dockyard on Wednesday night under the auspices of the Naval Dockyard Police Mess. About 70 took part and the "drive" was conducted very successfully by the M.C., Mr. A. B. Allan.

Mrs. Blackman secured the first prize for ladies, being closely followed by Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. Cockran; Mrs. Rewell qualifying for the "booby" prize.

The prizes for men were won as follows:—1st, Mr. Wilson; 2nd, Sergeant Clayforth; R.M.L.I.; 3rd, Mr. Buchanan; "Booby" prize, Mr. Tindall.

A Berlin dispatch says a Danish physician has offered 1,000,000 kroner to the Berlin Municipal Council, with which to send about 10,000 Berlin children to Denmark. The children are to be kept in the northern kingdom for the duration of the war and six months thereafter. The offer was accepted.

ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY FOR
HONGKONG.

MEETING OF ENGLISHMEN.

For the purpose of forming a St. George's Society in Hongkong, a public meeting, to which all Englishmen were invited, was held at the City Hall last evening, when His Honour Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz presided over a satisfactory attendance which included the Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., the Hon. Mr. J. H. Kemp (Attorney-General), Messrs. N. J. Stabb, G. T. Edkins, E. Shilton Hooper, M. S. Northcote, P. C. Potts, H. P. Winslow, S. H. Dodwell, A. R. Lowe, P. M. Hodgson, G. C. Moxon, along with Mr. J. Bentley (Hon. Secretary) and Mr. C. Champkin (Hon. Treasurer).

The CHAIRMAN referred to the work of the General Committee in the celebration of Empire Day and said their best thanks were due to all who had come forward to help them, stating that their obligations were spread all over the Colony.

The Chairman went on to say that St. George's Day realised something over \$33,000—street collections realised \$16,179, the theatre performance on St. George's Day realised \$11,594, the two subsequent performances brought in \$1,658, and the *fête* and *Cafe Chantant* realised \$6,821.

After meeting various outgoings they had a balance of 24,000. Their gratitude was due to the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, because if it had not been for him there would have been nothing done in this Colony on St. George's Day.

Very few people, he thought, knew that St. George's Day was the birthday of Shakespeare. He thought it must be a source of great gratification that on St. George's Day men, women and children in the Colony wore the same red and white favours which were worn by the British troops in the battle of the Aisne.

He mentioned that the 24,000 would be distributed as follows:—£1,000 to the Prisoners of War Fund, £1,000 to the Lord Roberts' Memorial Workshop, another £1,000 to the Dreadnought Hospital, and the remaining \$1,000 to the French Red Cross Fund as a tribute to our Allies. (Applause.)

The Chairman went on to say that the second object of the Committee was to consider the formation of a St. George's Society in Hongkong. They had been in communication with the Shanghai Society, and had found that it was in affiliation with the parent Society at Home, but with the limited time at their disposal the Committee found it impossible to co-operate with the parent Society. If, at a later date, they were able to follow the example of Shanghai, they would do so.

He mentioned that the rules of the Society had been prepared by Mr. Sharp and Mr. H. W. Looker, and they had been supervised by the Committee with the greatest care. They were before those present, and suggestions were invited.

On the suggestion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. EDKINS, it was proposed that a St. George's Society in Hongkong be formed.

In the rules it was suggested that the annual fee should be \$2, and an amendment raising this to \$5 was lost by a large majority.

ELECTION OF OFFICIALS.

On the proposition of the Hon. Mr. E. H. SHARP, seconded by Mr. G. C. MOXON, the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak and His Honour Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz were elected President and Vice-President, respectively.

The CHAIRMAN proposed, and the Hon. Mr. H. E. POLLOCK seconded, that Messrs. J. H. Bentley and N. J. Stabb should be elected Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, respectively, and this was carried.

The following General Committee was appointed, on the proposition of Mr. Moxon, seconded by Mr. Winslow:—The Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp and Messrs. H. W. Bird, C. Beawick, M. S. Northcote, G. S. Archbutt, H. W. Looker and W. A. Dowley.

This was all the business, and Mr. Moxon proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was carried with acclamation, and said, "We all wish long and useful life to the St. George's Society of Hongkong." (Applause.)

In connection with the *Cafe Chantant* and *Fancy Fete*, Mr. H. W. Bird wishes to express thanks to:—

Mr. R. Sutherland for his kindness in providing one of the Side Shows, and his great assistance in the Training of the Elephant; on several occasions serious trouble with the animal was averted.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

HONGKONG MAGISTRATE

\$2,000. WORTH OF PETTY THEFTS.

When a coolie was charged before Mr. Wood with stealing scrap brass from the shipping yard of Mr. W. S. Bailey, the latter asked for a heavy penalty, stating that such thefts were very common, and that last year, as a result of these small thefts, \$2,000 worth of brass, etc., was stolen.

The coolie's method was to take the brass and things from the ships which were alongside and to place them on a rubbish heap preparatory to being taken away.

Mr. Wood sentenced the coolie to three months' hard labour and four hours' stocks.

UNCONVINCING EVIDENCE.

When a foki of a pig dealer was sent with \$45 to pay for a pig he returned to his master and said that he had been robbed of the sum in Des Voeux Road West by a man whom he brought back with him. This man was charged with the theft before Mr. Dyer Ball, but denied all knowledge of it.

He said that he was walking along the street when he heard police whistles blown, and the next thing to happen was that he was arrested. He was searched, but no money was found on him.

The Magistrate considered the evidence most unconvincing, and the defendant was discharged.

DUCKS' EGGS.

A Chinese boy was seen leaving a Canton wharf with 45 ducks' eggs in his possession. When questioned about them he said that he went aboard the *Charles Hardown* to look for work, and an Indian told him to take the eggs away and sell them, on the understanding that he would return with the proceeds and receive some tea money.

Asked if he could identify the Indian again if he were taken on board the vessel, the youthful defendant said he did not think so; neither did he think the Indian would recognise him again.

Mr. Dyer Ball did not believe the boy's story, and passed sentence of six weeks imprisonment.

through his patience and intimate knowledge of the ways and habits of these beasts.

Tak Cheong for procuring the elephant from Africa after very considerable expense and a great deal of trouble.

A. S. Watson & Co., for kindly providing a large supply of Lavender Water for sale.

Hongkong Electric Co., for providing the Light.

Hongkong Hotel, for providing tea.

Chief Gunner J. Wallace and assistants for decorations.

Harbour Office for decoration.

China Sugar Refinery for supplying sugar.

Ladies generally for selling Badges, Programmes, etc.

Performers at the *Cafe Chantant*.
Mr. J. Blake and Mr. G. E. Weiss for Cinematograph.

South China Morning Post for Posters and Programmes at reduced price.

Mr. Eldridge of the P.W.D., for supervising erection of matchless.

Ng Cheong, Contractor, for the erection of matchless.

Mr. W. A. Dowley wishes to thank:—

(1.) For the assistance rendered at the Refreshment Bar in the afternoon, at the *Cafe Chantant* and in the evening at the Theatre Royal.

(2.) Messrs. C. B. Brooke, J. Shiner, J. Arnold, Sgt. Major Bond, also British American Tobacco Co., Hongkong Cigar Store and Messrs. Donnelly & Whyte for supplying Cigars and Cigarettes.

(3.) Messrs. A. S. Watson for supplying one case Gilbey's Whisky.

Mr. W. Sinclair wishes to express his deep appreciation for assistance rendered to him by the Performer in the "Scenes from Shakespeare," and thanks especially:—

Mr. C. H. P. Hay—for producing two items of the programme.

Mrs. C. H. P. Hay—for arranging the Ballet and designing costumes for the entire production.

Mr. Denman Fuller—for writing special music, training the chorus and attending to the lighting.

Mr. W. A. Cornell—for constructional work on the stage.

Mr. G. Duncan—for making St. George's armour, and the Kowloon Dock Co., for presenting same.

THE WAR.

DISCONCERTING NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

CENTRAL POWERS ANGLING FOR PEACE.

BRAZIL CLAIMS GERMAN SHIPPING.

Franco-Belgian Front.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH FRONT.

RAIDERS REFUSED.

LONDON, May 30th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, in a report, states:—We repulsed hostile raiders near Fontaine-les-Croiselles, to the west of Lens.

We raided trenches to the south of Neuve Chapelle.

LATEST CABLES.

NOTHING TO REPORT.

LONDON, May 30th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig states there is nothing of interest to report.

MUTUAL ARTILLERY FIGHTING.

PARIS, May 31st.

A communiqué states:—Both artilleries continued most actively in the neighbourhood south of St. Quentin.

Our Champagne batteries silenced a heavy bombardment of our trenches at Monthant and Casque.

EARLIER CABLES.

FRENCH CAPTURES.

PARIS, May 30th.

A communiqué says:—There is a fairly violent artillery struggle south of St. Quentin.

Special units endeavouring to reach our trenches at Mont Blond, in Champagne, were obliged to fall back under the violence of our fire, abandoning dead and wounded. We captured prisoners, a machine-gun, and a flame-thrower.

Three enemy aeroplanes have been brought down.

Italian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ITALIAN FRONT.

ROME, May 30th.

The official report states:—There was very heavy artillery firing on the Julian front, from Mount Cucco to Mount Vodice, eastward of Gorizia.

The enemy three times unsuccessfully attacked our trenches on Hill 652 between Jamiano and the coast.

We extended our gains westward of Medezza.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

CONTROL OF TOBACCO.

LONDON, May 30th.

The Board of Trade assumes control of tobacco, prohibits dealings in tobacco, except as authorised, and fixes the wholesale and retail prices from June 1st.

BRITISH SHIPPING.

LONDON, May 30th.

The Admiralty returns of the shipping for the week are:—Arrivals, 2,719; departures, 2,768. Eighteen vessels over and one under 1,600 tons were sunk. Seventeen were unsuccessfully attacked. Two fishing boats were sunk.

THE AIR RAID ON FOLKESTONE.

LONDON, May 30th.

Lord French, replying to a Folkestone deputation, said it was impossible to absolutely prevent aeroplane attacks, but the scheme of defence had been reconsidered, in the light of the experience gained from the recent raid. He hoped measures would be taken to make any further raid a risky operation involving heavy loss.

GENERAL SMUTS AND RUSSIA.

LONDON, May 30th.

General Smuts, speaking at the Russian Exhibition held in the Grafton Galleries, said that if nothing further happened as a result of the war but the Russian revolution, posterity would say that the war had not been in vain. The Germans always regarded the Russians as barbarians. Our prayer was that these "barbarians" would save the world from military despotism as they had saved Europe from Napoleon. Also, that they would continue to bear their share in smashing the blood Turks and thus end the anti-Christian tyranny. He ventured to remind his Russian brethren that discipline must accompany freedom; otherwise freedom was like a new wine that sometimes went to the head. Germany was quite ready to swallow all Russia's ideal formulas about peace without annexation and indemnities, and swallow Russia, too! Herr Bethmann-Hollweg's speech showed that Germany longed for peace, but a peace based upon German victories. Germany, built on blood and iron, must go down by blood and iron. He hoped that Russians would not forget the agony of Serbia and Belgium. The latter was making a brave fight, not only here, but in East Africa and Central Africa. (Cheers.) He knew he was expressing the sentiment of the Russian and other democracies when he said "shame on the Allies if we let these small nations go under."

General Smuts concluded:—"We have achieved what was thought impossible, namely, a union of the free peoples of the world against autocracies like Germany, Austria and Turkey, and, you may add, the Devil! What a combination!"

DEPLORABLE INSUBRIETY IN RUSSIA.

NEW YORK, May 31st.

A despatch from Petrograd states that the Council of Workmen and Soldiers' Delegates have drawn attention to the deplorable events arising from the increase of drunkenness, and lays stress upon the grave dangers to be expected from such. It declares that no one has a right to buy or drink vodka, and appeals to the people to abolish it for evermore.

ROUNDING UP DESERTERS.

PETROGRAD, May 31st.

The deserters have been rounded up at Kieff.

THE RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE.

At a Congress of Delegates of the Officers serving at the front it was resolved that, while halting the Provisional Government's aspirations towards a stable peace, the Congress declares that the only means of arriving at that are by immediate re-establishment of the military offensive.

EARLIER CABLES.

KING CONSTANTINE.

VENIZELISTS REPUDIATE RECONCILIATION.

LONDON, May 30th.

Interviews with M. Venizelos and several of his Ministers have been published, repudiating the idea of a reconciliation with King Constantine.

M. Averoff, one of the Ministers, adds that it is essential that M. Venizelos shall occupy Thessaly in order to secure the crops which are almost ready for harvesting, to prevent King Constantine from requisitioning them.

RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR POLICY.

NO HELP FOR WESTERN ALLIES.

PETROGRAD, May 30th.

Two startling articles reflecting the Revolutionary war policy have been published in the organ of the Council of the Soldiers' and Workmen's Delegates.

One of the articles, which is more particularly addressed to England, strongly dissents from the claim in the Provisional Government's declaration and the Revolutionary leaders' pronouncements regarding a Russian peace formula which shall coincide with the Anglo-French aims. It asserts that Russia will not sacrifice a single soldier to help her Western Allies to repay "a historic injustice."

The other article says the watchword of "No annexation" must not be misinterpreted. It defines annexation as the forcible seizure of territory in possession of another State on the day of the declaration of war, and adds "without annexation" means that not a drop of the people's blood must be shed for such a seizure.

GERMAN-RUSSIANS IN CONGRESS.

ODessa, May 30th.

A Congress of 3,000 Russians of German origin has opened here. It has been decided to conduct the debates both in German and Russian.

A NEW POLITICAL PARTY.

MOSCOW, May 30th.

A meeting of the Octobrist Party, attended by the former Minister, M. Gutschoff, decided to form a new Party, which will combine the bourgeois and democratic elements, in defence of Liberal and Republican principles.

FRENCH MINISTER'S APPEALS.

PARIS, May 30th.

The French Socialist Minister, M. Thomas, is accompanying M. Kerensky on a tour of the Russian Armies. The former has delivered numerous speeches on the need for discipline to defeat militarism, otherwise they would again be slaves. He also replied to numerous questions and refuted sophistic and pacifist arguments. The speeches have made a deep impression.

GERMAN PEACE PROPAGANDA.

GERMANY WILLING TO DISARM?

LONDON, May 30th.

In view of the forthcoming opening of the regular Session of the International Socialist Conference at Stockholm, Austro-German peace efforts are intensifying.

In an inspired article, the *Neue Freie Presse* says that Austria is only concerned that the balance of power shall not be changed against Austria, and declares that freedom of navigation in the Adriatic and the Danube are more important to Austria than the distribution of territory.

Meanwhile, the German peace propaganda is most active in Sweden. Writing to the Swedish journal *Dagens Nyheter*, the well-known German journalist, Dr. Hans Vost, attempts to influence Socialist opinion in favour of a peace conference, by professing the German willingness to agree to an immediate general disarmament.

FINANCING THE WAR.

GREATER EFFORTS BY U.S. GOVERNMENT.

WASHINGTON, May 30th.

In order to facilitate greater efforts towards financing the war, the Government contemplates the virtual closing of the American money market to further foreign Government bond issues throughout the war; also the centralising of the country's financial system, by the addition to the Federal Reserve Board of one thousand strong Trust Companies and State Banks not at present members.

NEW POST OFFICE SCHEME.

OF INTEREST TO THE COLONY.

LONDON, May 30th.

The Post Office has adopted a system whereby originals and duplicates of letters posted together will be sent, throughout the Empire, by successive mails.

BRAZIL REVOKES NEUTRALITY.

GERMAN SHIPS TO BE UTILISED.

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 30th.

The Chamber has unanimously passed the Bill revoking Brazilian neutrality, not merely in the German-American War, but in the war between the *Entente* and the Central Powers.

The Bill also authorises the utilisation of German ships in Brazilian ports.

WAR PROBLEMS.

SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION VISITS AMERICA.

WASHINGTON, May 30th.

An Anglo-French Scientific Commission has arrived to co-operate with American scientists on war problems. The Commissioners include Sir Ernest Rutherford, Langworthy Professor and Director of Physical Laboratories, University of Manchester.

NEW FOOD CONTROLLER.

REPORTED PROBABLE RETIREMENT OF LORD DEVONPORT.

LONDON, May 30th.

The *Daily Mail* says it is reported that a Labour Member is to be appointed Food Controller, as Lord Devonport is resigning owing to ill-health.

OBITUARY.

COL. NEWNHAM DAVIS.

LONDON, May 30th.

The death is announced of Colonel Newnham Davis.

[Deceased was born in 1854 and joined the Buffs in 1873. He served through the Griqualand West and Zululand campaigns with the Imperial Mounted Infantry, 1877-1879. He also served in the Straits Settlements, China, India and was attached for three years to the Intelligence Department at Simla. In 1884 he retired, and joined the staff of the *Sporting Times* in the same year. In 1912 he resigned this appointment and became editor of the *Man of the World*, later becoming editor of *Town Topics*. On the outbreak of war, he applied for re-employment in the Army and was appointed an officer of the Military Guard over prisoners of war at Alexandra Palace in 1915.]

GERMAN DYES.

THE KAISER AND PATENTS.

From an American official who left Berlin just before the rupture of diplomatic relations, I learn that Germany is more concerned about the inviolability of her patents in the United States than she is even about the possible seizure of her ships, says a correspondent in an American paper.

The whole future of the German chemical industry and the production of dyestuffs in which the Germans had gained a monopoly is involved in this question. German manufacturers, I am told, are alarmed at the efforts the United States are making to supply their own dyes and other chemical products, and at the decision of the Washington Government to impose a 100 per cent. duty on imports of these articles. Once the German patent rights were confiscated the whole of her chemical trade with America would be ruined beyond recovery, and the loss of the markets of the two greatest textile manufacturing countries—Britain and the United States—would be one of the greatest disasters the war would have brought.

My informant further stated that questions relating to patent rights had been for years before the war a source of friction between Berlin and Washington. The Germans, he said, had always been ready to infringe with impunity American rights, but loud in their protests if there was the least suspicion of the violation of any German right. The Kaiser himself had laid himself open to suspicion in proof of the following story, long current in American business circles, was told:—

When Edison visited Europe in 1889, at the time he was perfecting the phonograph, he was received by the Kaiser, who extracted a promise that the scientist would send him a model of the wonderful machine. The war was done, and before many months phonographs of a sort were being made in Germany without regard to patent rights.

When Edison's next invention was completed the German Ambassador in Washington made an application for another model on the Emperor's behalf, but on this occasion he was told bluntly that "the young man" could not be obliged.

"OUR LITTLE BIT" SOCIETY.

"Our Little Bit Society" has sent the undermentioned articles this week to Messrs. Shevan, Tones & Co. to be forwarded to Queen Mary's Needle Work Guild, 2, Cavendish Square, London, W.

1,344 rolled bandages, 13 quilts, 13 pairs trench boots, 13 pillows, 7 suits pyjamas, 100 white woollen caps, 48 eye bandages, and 8 bags swabs.

CHINESE TELEGRAM.

PROVINCES IN REVOLT.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

PEKING, May 31st.

The revolt is spreading. Chekiang declared its independence on Wednesday in co-operation with four other provinces. Fengtien also declared its independence on Wednesday.

Reports from Peking state that Ni Shih Chung has raised the standard of revolt against the Government and is converging on Peking.

Li Ching Shi declines the Premiership.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHEUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

DECLARATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE.

SHANGHAI, May 31st.

Nei Tze Chung, Civil Governor of Anhui, declared his independence on the 29th.

Fengtien, Shantung, Hupeh and Honan declared their independence yesterday.

The Chekiang Tchuans also held a meeting yesterday and decided to declare independence.

It is reported that Fukien will declare its independence.

The President and Wang Shi-shen consulted with regard to the independence of Anhui yesterday, but with what result is not yet known.

MARINE COURT.

BOARDING-HOUSE RUNNERS CHARGED.

In the Marine Court yesterday morning, before Commissioner Beckwith, R.N. Marine Magistrate, 45 Chinese boarding-house runners were charged with being on board a certain ship without the master's permission. The accused were defended by Mr. F. Davidson and pleaded not guilty.

After evidence of arrest had been given, Mr. Davidson said the charge was in the nature of a test case. His defence was that the action under which the accused were charged said, "Going on board a ship without permission." The accused were already on board the ship, and must have been there with the master's permission. What they had actually done was to remain on board after the ship had left the buoy, and the section did not provide for this as an offence, and therefore no offence had been proved.

His worship stated that it was understood that boarding-house runners were supposed to leave a ship before it left the buoy and not to remain on board until the ship reached Kowloon Bay. His worship found the charge against the accused proved and fined them \$2 each, adding that if there were any further offences of this nature the full penalty would be inflicted. The fact of boarding-house runners remaining on ships after they had left the buoy was the cause of all the smuggling of passengers down to Singapore.

TRAGEDY OF A GERMAN SOLDIER'S STARVING WIFE.

The *Tagblatt* says:—We have received from a soldier's wife at Ravisse, a letter so condemnatory of the official methods that we deemed it right to reproduce part of it in order to bring the matter to the notice of the proper authorities. Unfortunately, this is by no means an isolated case:—

"Until February 15th I was in receipt of 10s. a week separation allowance. The following day this was reduced to 7s. When I pointed out to the communal president how badly off I was, he said that did not concern him at all; I should go out to work, only I was too lazy to work."

"I have four little children, aged respectively five months, two years, four years, and six years. Not a soul will look after the children. How, then, can I go out to work? My child of two is laid up very ill. The doctor says he will not press for immediate payment, but the drug store man refused to make up the prescription unless I paid him at once."

"My children are now shivering, as I am, with half-frozen limbs, because of coal, coke, or wood I haven't a fragment."

"When I told the communal president that I should have to send a written request for assistance, he said to me: 'What is the use of your writing? Unless I sanction it they will do nothing for you, and I am not going to be troubled with such people as you, who have no right to so many children.'"

THE NEW MORAL.

Mr. Palmer has studied a phenomenon of the greatest interest, the moral of England's volunteer Army, as exhibited in the battle on the Somme, July, 1916. His conclusions are both valuable and reassuring. He has disposed of all doubts as to how the town-bred man, more highly strung than his forefathers, would stand the test of a war far more nerve-racking than any that had gone before.

The battle of the Somme was not intended, as the public vainly imagined, to break the German line, but "to gain a victory in moral, to train the Army for future offensives." It accomplished its purpose. The New Army emerged as gold from the refiner's fire:—

A question was answered for anyone who had been in the Manchurian War. He learned that those bred in sight of cathedrals can surpass without any inspiration of Oriental fatalism or religious fanaticism the courage of the land of Shintoism and Bushido.

The author came afterwards upon one of these heroic battalions in billet in a war house.

They were Yorkshiremen, mostly workers in worsted mills. They had a job to do, and they did it, just as they would have done in any of the factories at home. In the dim light of the warehouse they talked on, making their task appear as a half-holiday of sport.

Mostly, I think, it was inborn racial phlegm.

The Germans, true to their instinct for making psychological blunders, believed that the Canadians lacked this racial phlegm, that they would be "high-strung, nervous, quick for the offensive, but badly organised and poor at sticking." They soon found out their mistake.

At St. Eloi they were put on test as only the Ypres salient can provide. The time was winter, when chill water filled the shell craters, and the soil oozed out of sandbags, and the mist was a cold, wet poulitice. When a Canadian officer was asked if he had organised some trenches that his battalion had taken, he replied: "How can you organise peace?" After it had been well mud-soaked, the Canadian First Division was caught in the gas attack. It refused to yield when it was only human to yield, and stood resolute in the fumes between the Germans and success.

Again the Germans supposed that the Australians were undisciplined, untrained. But they showed themselves masters of the grim, stealthy advance. The contest of will, courage, audacity, alertness, and resource, man to man, suited the Australian bent. "Advance, Australia!" is the Australian motto, and the Australians advanced. Every day we heard that they had taken more ground, thanks to a grim persistence, which some had said would not comport with their high-strung temperament.

But what about the New Zealanders, whose standard of individual intelligence and education was so high, who loved municipal improvements—would they make good fighters? They have never failed to take an objective set them, said a general, after the taking of Flanders, "and they have always gained their positions with slight losses." Could there be any higher praise? Success and thrift, courage and skill in taking cover? They went, keeping their order as if on parade, working, out each evolution with the tanks.

Each part of the Empire in turn rises to the occasion, displaying, with certain interesting differences in their spirit, the same magnificent fighting ability. The mention of the tanks brings us back to the Mother Country, who furnished the men that manned those tanks. In the novelty of this new engine of war and the curiosity as to its movements we are apt to see sight of the strain put upon their crews.

Columbus crossing uncharted seas did not undertake a more daring journey than the skipper of the tanks. All was speculation, and uncertainty. Officers and crew were sealed up in a steel box, the sport of destiny. They went out prepared to die.

THE GERMAN FLEET.

In the course of a letter concerning the German fleet Mr. Charles White, 73, Cranbrook-road, Chiswick-lane, says:—

"The German fleet is still a fleet in being, in the very essence of the term, and as such lends incalculable support to the present very serious U-boat campaign, and at the same time necessitates the diversion of a great part of our resources to the proper maintenance of our own High Seas Fleet. The German fleet shelters in the Kiel Canal simply because that great engineering undertaking, which the Germans had the foresight to construct while England practised a foolish policy of leaving undeveloped the strategic potentialities of its own coast line, is a component part of German naval defence. Were the German navy destroyed, the bulk of our great warships could return to harbour, an enormous number of merchant vessels would be released for the carrying of food and for other important services, the great flotilla of light craft operating with our main fleet could be diverted to the work of protecting the trade routes and combating the submarine menace, and hundreds of thousands of trained troops and skilled civilians would be set free for the furtherance of the military operations in Flanders and elsewhere. Such is the influence exercised by the German fleet 'withdrawn' from the theatre of war."

"That the German fleet will eventually come out and fight, that it will be defeated by the British Fleet, and that the British Fleet will in so doing sustain the greatest losses it will ever have incurred in its history, are inevitable facts in the storehouse of time."

—*Daily Telegraph*.

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**THE NEW FRENCH REMEDY
THERAPION No. 1
THERAPION No. 2
THERAPION No. 3**
ON SALE
HONGKONG HANSARD REPORTS
of the MEETINGS
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Revised by THE MEMBERS
PRICE ...

DAILY PRESS OFFICE

WEATHER REPORT.

On May 31st at 11.30.—No returns from
Japanese stations. Pressure has decreased
moderately over N.E. China, and increased
slightly along the coast from Shanghai to
Hongkong, and over Formosa and Luzon. It
is nearly stationary over Indo-China and in the
extreme South.

A moderate depression is shown to the east
of Shanghai, and a shallow depression still lies
over Indo-China.

Hongkong rainfall for 24 hours ending at
10 a.m. to-day, 0.00 inch. Total since 1st
January, 18.31 inches, against an average of
25.34 inches.

The forecast for the 24 hours ending at noon
to-day is as follows:—

Direction	Forecast
Hongkong to Gap Road	(S.W. or variable with moderate to light; fair.
Formosa Channel	The same as No. 1.
South Coast of China between Hongkong and Lamoo	The same as No. 1.
South Coast of China between Hongkong and Hainan	The same as No. 1.

CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL
REGISTER.

21st MAY, A.M.

Station	Hour	Pressure at Sea Level	Temperature	Humidity	Direction Force	Weather
Vladivostok	8 a.	29.59	46	—	—	—
Nemuro	8 a.	—	—	—	—	—
Maikado	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kochi	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagasaki	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kagoshima	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oshima	—	—	—	—	—	—
Naha	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ishijima	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bonin Is.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hankow	8 a.	29.42	62	83	SW	4
Ichang	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kiukiang	—	—	—	—	—	—
Changsha	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shanghai	—	29.71	64	94	S	1 b
Wusung	—	—	—	—	—	—
Amoy	—	29.74	74	80	SE	1 of
Swatow	—	29.78	77	82	SE	1 of
Taihou	—	29.79	73	100	SE	2 of
Taiwan	—	29.79	75	—	—	—
Koshu	—	29.78	75	—	—	—
Pescadore	—	29.69	78	—	—	—
Canton	8 a.	29.77	79	91	SEW	1 of
Hongkong	—	29.76	79	90	SEW	3 of
Gap Road	—	29.76	—	—	—	—
Macao	—	29.78	79	95	SW	2 of
Wuchow	9 a.	—	—	—	—	—
Hohow	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phu Lien	7 a.	29.73	79	98	S	2 of
Tourane	—	29.74	77	—	—	—
Cape St. James	—	29.73	77	—	—	—
Apurri	—	29.80	77	91	SW	2 of
Dagupan	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manila	—	29.79	77	94	—	—
Lega	—	29.80	75	84	—	—
Tacloban	—	29.80	75	82	—	—
Iloilo	—	29.79	75	92	—	—
Surigao	—	29.45	73	95	SW	1 of
Cebu	—	29.69	79	—	—	—
Labuan	—	29.72	88	95	SW	4

T. E. CLAYTON, Director.
1. Barometer, reduced to 29.92 inches; bar-
ometer on the level of the sea in inches, tenths,
and hundredths.

2. Temperature, in the shade, in degrees
Fahrenheit.

3. Humidity, in percentage of saturation, the
humidity of air saturated with moisture is 100.

4. Direction of Wind, to two points.

5. Force of Wind, according to Beaufort Scale.
0, calm; 1, light air; 2, light breeze; 3, breeze;
4, fresh breeze; 5, strong breeze; 6, fresh gale;
7, strong gale; 8, fresh gale; 9, severe gale;
10, severe gale; 11, severe gale; 12, severe gale.

6. Rain, in inches, tenths and hundredths.

7. Barometer, in inches, tenths and hundredths.

HONGKONG METEOROLOGICAL
REGISTER.

Hongkong Observatory, May 31st.

Barometer	Thermometer	Humidity	Wind Direction	Wind Force	Weather
29.73	79.76	90	SEW	3 of	—
29.73	79.76	90	SEW	3 of	—
29.73	79.76	90	SEW	3 of	—
29.73	79.76	90	SEW	3 of	—
29.73	79.76	90	SEW	3 of	—
29.73	79.76	90	SEW	3 of	—
29.73	79.76	90	SEW	3 of	—
29.73	79.76	90	SEW	3 of	—
29.73	79.76	90	SEW	3 of	—
29.73	79.76	90	SEW	3 of	—

Highest open-air temperature on 30th 69

Lowest open-air temperature on 31st 79

HONGKONG TIDE TABLE.

From 1st to 6th June.

Day of Week	Day of Month	High Water		Low Water	
		Time	Height	Time	Height
Fri	1	6.59	5.4	0.45	2.7
Satur	2	6.16	4.8	0.0	2.8
Sund	3	7.21	4.2	1.31	2.6
Mon	4	8.16	3.6	2.17	1.3
Tues	5	7.27	3.1	1.13	3.7
Wed	6	8.16	2.5	1.59	0.7
Thurs	7	9.18	1.9	1.46	3.7
Friday	8	10.16	1.3	3.4	0.2
Satur	9	11.1	0.7	3.21	3.8
Sund	10	12.3	0.1	4.66	0.1
Mon	11	1.4	0.5	2.54	2.8
Tues	12	2.4	0.9	5.11	0.2

TWO AND A HALF YEARS
WITH THE GERMANS.ENGLISHMAN'S REMARKABLE
EXPERIENCES.

THE ESCAPE.

Mr. J. P. Whitaker, the young York-
shireman who has been describing in
the "Times" his experiences during
two-and-a-half years behind the German
armies in France and Belgium, tells in
the following some of the incidents of
his escape.

VI.

In publishing this account of my escape
from France into Belgium and from
Belgium into Holland, I have no inten-
tion of revealing anything which might
make it more difficult for those left be-
hind to make their way as I have done
to freedom. Nor shall I give any clue
to the identity of those who gave me
shelter and helped me in many other
ways on my perilous journey.

I have, therefore, carefully omitted
certain facts which would enable the Ger-
mans to discover the exact route which I
took, or the precise point of my entry
into Belgium and my passage thence to
Dutch soil. In practice, I believe the
German sentries are well aware of all
the means of escape across the Dutch
frontier. The editor of this journal and
the authorities at Hull have the full
details of my adventure.

Then sentries, I should explain, are
drawn entirely from the Landsturm.
They are easy-going men, most of them
fathers of families, and almost to a man
their one desire is to get back to their
homes. Many of them can be bribed
quite cheaply. Some are lazy. Nearly
all can be easily fooled. Not even Prus-
sian organization can make alert watch-
men of languid, portly old men.

Nor, apparently, can young men be
spared to take their place. It is a not-
able fact that the number of what may
be called fighting soldiers to be seen in
Belgium when I was there is extremely
small. The garrison consisted in those
parts of Belgium almost exclusively of
tubby and tired Landsturm.

I left France early in January and
landed in England just two calendar
months later, having travelled across
Belgium and a good part of Holland.
For some time before I set out on my
adventurous journey I had been growing
increasingly restless owing to the mon-
otony of life in Roubaix, the gradual
worsening of the food situation, and the
recurrent rounding up of young men for
deportation.

By the medium of the smugglers to
whom I will refer later I had establish-
ed communication with two young French
friends in Belgium, and I notified them
of my intention to make a bid for liberty.
We met one day at the French-Belgian
frontier to talk the matter over, with
only a five wire fence between us. Later
I joined them in Belgium, and they be-
came my companions in flight until we
parted in Holland.

IN THE SMUGGLERS' TRACK.

Of the method of my escape from
France into Belgium I will say no more
than that I followed the track of the
smugglers and adopted the same means
as they of evading the frontier guard.
I entered Belgium with 500 marks in
German money (formerly the equivalent
of £25 sterling) in my pocket, and no
more luggage than two spare-soft collars
and two handkerchiefs.

How and where I met my friends I do
not propose to divulge. Shortly after we
met we fell in with a party of Belgians
who were making a living by smuggling wool
from General von Denks's part of the
country into the area controlled by
General von Bissing. They agreed to
take us with them, and that evening we
accompanied them through ploughed fields
and woods to a spot near the border
between the two areas. Here we waited
while the leaders of the gang went ahead
to make sure that the coast was clear.
Not many yards away paced a German
sentry of a tree with his shoulder, and
the soldier heard the crackle of the twigs.
He stopped instantly, and shouted
"Halt!" The smugglers dropped their
packages and ran, and the Frenchmen
and I ran with them.

We were more fortunate in our next
attempt. Once on the other side of the
border-line we found our way easily
made in with a party of Belgians who
were making a living by smuggling wool
from General von Denks's part of the
country into the area controlled by
General von Bissing. They agreed to
take us with them, and that evening we
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sentry of a tree with his shoulder, and
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"Halt!" The smugglers dropped their
packages and ran, and the Frenchmen
and I ran with them.

Refreshed by our stay in Brussels we
made our way to the outskirts of
Antwerp. En route we walked through
Malines, and saw the effects of the Ger-
man guns in the early days of the war.
We dared not linger there, but we could
see in passing that attempts had been
made to repair some of the damage to the
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THE GREAT OFFENSIVE. VIMY RIDGE AND DOUAI PLAIN.

"The famous Vimy Crest, where our offensive was held on May 9th, 1915, was carried in superb style by Canadians. Thus the last obstacle fell which barred the Plain of Douai, where the strategic possibilities are very brilliant." So the official French commentator expounds the results of the first day of the great offensive of 1917. He reminds us, if we needed the hint, that no ground on the western front, not even the sodden trenches around Ypres or the battered hills of Verdun, has been more fiercely fought for than this Vimy ridge. In the last months of 1914, when the Allies and the Germans were extending their lines in the race for the Channel ports, the Germans seized all the high ground north of Arras. The French attacked there, and the Germans held their positions through the early months of 1915, till in May General Foch launched an offensive. He won the summit of the line of downs, the hill of Notre Dame de Lorette, but this is separated by the deep valley of Souchez from the Vimy Ridge, and does not command that position. So in September a new attack was organised, which carried the French lines beyond Souchez, and gave them the western slopes of the ridge, over the French line in this region, and in May, 1916, we lost part of their positions on the ridge. With the Somme offensive impending, it was not thought worth while to recover the ground, and so the dawn of Monday last found the Germans still firmly planted all along the line of heights.

This glance at the history of the war is enough to show the supreme importance which both sides attach to the Vimy Ridge. A position which through campaign after campaign is thought worth thousands of lives must give great advantages to its possessor. What then is the peculiar value of the Vimy Ridge? The answer to that question, as to so many other questions about military operations, is to be found in geography. The Vimy Ridge forms the north-eastern spur of the mass of high ground known as the Hills of Artois, which may be called an extension on the other side of the Channel of our own Downs. It is not, as we have seen, the highest ground in the neighbourhood, for there are loftier points to the westward which have long been in our possession. But it is the last spur of the high ground, and beyond it to eastward lies a broad plain. Therefore, to hold the Vimy Ridge, the summit and the eastern slopes; as now we do, is first hold ground which gives observation and artillery positions commanding the country for many miles to eastward, and secondly to have overcome the great, the only important, natural obstacle to an advance over the plain of Douai.

Now this plain has a twofold importance. It contains a network of communications upon which the German front on anything like its present line depends. It is the area, by far, the richest in coalfields and the most important industrial district of France. Through out the war the Germans have held this country and used its resources to the utmost. Now the Vimy Ridge, the slopes of which are gentle on the west, rises out of this eastern plain very steeply. If you remember the gentle seaward ascent of the South Downs and the steep northern scarp you can form some idea of the contrast. The summit of the ridge is some 500ft. The plain below slopes gently to east and north, from some 200ft. in Vimy itself to about 100ft. at Douai and Lille. The double reason of a level country and a rich industrial area have brought this plain a number of great highways of communication by road, canal, and rail. Name any town of size in the district and you name a nodal point of communication—Lens, Douai, Lille. To give a catalogue of their connections would be to write a guide-book to Northern France.

Lens is the centre of the coalfields of the Pas de Calais, which have an area of some 200 square miles. Though it is not yet in English hands, our troops once across the Vimy Ridge are in the coal country. A glance at the map shows how thickly the district is studded with pits. We need not recall the appalling disaster of 1906 at Courrières, when thousands of men were killed in the blazing pits, to illustrate the magnitude of the mines. The coal hereabouts is bituminous, and was the great source of supply for the gasworks of France. The country, however, has little of the desolation and dirt which we in England associate with a mining district. It is not in the least a black country. Coalmines cannot well add to the beauty of a landscape, and their machinery and their mounds of debris are in the plain of Douai what they are elsewhere. But the country is green and fertile, though trees are scarce. The mining villages, with their bright red brick their white doors, and their white and green windows, had a pleasant, comely aspect surprising to an English eye. Let those who hope that the Germans may be hustled out of them before they have time to carry out the congenial work of devastation.

DOUAI AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

But it would be folly to read into the success, great as it is, the prospect of a swift and sweeping advance. We have learnt by now what opportunities for defence are provided by the many buildings and waste heaps of a mining district. Though it is only some fifteen miles by rail from Arras to Douai, and though you could make the journey in the old days in less than half-an-hour, Douai is still far off. Between our troops and the town lies, it is no secret, the Hindenburg line of fortifications, which, running nearly due south from Lille, passes Drocourt, where the high road from Arras to Lille intersects the railway from Lens to Douai, and going southward still crosses the Soiree west of Vimy, and extends to Cambrai, which is a little to the east of Croisilles, the village already captured by our advance from the Somme. What this line may be worth, how completely it is fortified, whether our success

(Continued at foot of next column.)

THE DOCTOR'S FUNCTION IN WAR.

It may be granted that the doctor is a useful man in times of peace; but what can he do in war? He cannot prevent war, but he can do much to make it less deadly, and if he is of little assistance in new methods of making life, he is most fertile and successful in devising means for saving it. The first hold that the doctor has on war conditions depends upon the chief cause of the destruction of life in war time. Naturally, one would suppose this to be the actual slaughter upon the field of battle or the death-rate from wounds following, but as a matter of fact this is a comparatively minor factor.

Strange as it may seem, it is an abundantly supported, and overwhelmingly proven fact that up to about thirty years ago the real terror of war was disease, and that sickness from camp infections and bad food diseases destroyed from five to seven times as many lives in the Army itself as were lost on the field of battle or as a result of wounds. Up to thirty years ago the deadliest enemy of the soldier in the field was not bullets, but bacilli; not the sword, but the streptococcus.

THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR.

The Thirty Years' War is estimated to have reduced the population of Western and Central Europe from about 30,000,000 to under 14,000,000, and yet during the whole of its deadly course less than thirty pitched battles were fought, and the actual number of men killed in them or dying of their wounds afterwards was under 200,000. Pestilence, disease, and famine accounted for the rest.

During the course of one of the most famous campaigns the great Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden actually broke up his winter camp and began his spring campaign two months earlier than was intended because his men were dying faster of disease and food poisoning in their winter quarters than they had done before or would on the field of battle.

Armies have been known to go into winter quarters in full strength and high condition and be so decimated by disease as to be utterly unable to take the field at all in spring. One of the greatest strategists of the later Middle Ages declared that the hospital and the winter camp were the graveyard of an Army.

Even under the most favourable conditions, up to thirty years ago the regular ratio between deaths from disease in war and deaths on the field of battle and from wounds was seven to one. For instance, the death-rate in the American Civil War was six times as great among soldiers actually in the field from disease as from battle and wounds. Rather more than forty years ago the new doctor began to take the field, and his first distinct triumph was in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, when the death-rate was reduced to three deaths from disease to one from battle.

A BRILLIANT RESULT.

The Russo-Japanese War carried it one step further, and reduced the ratio to about 2½ deaths from disease to one in battle, but the Spanish-American War, regrettable to admit, slumped badly, and the death-rate from one disease alone, typhoid fever, were five times as many as the deaths in battle and from wounds in the Cuban campaign.

But the present war, huge and destructive as it is, has utterly shattered all previous records, and British Royal Army Medical Corps upon the Western Front, under the leadership of Sir Alfred Keogh, has actually, from such data as are available, more than reversed the ratio; that is to say, only one death from disease to three upon the field of battle.

In fact, it is very largely due to this brilliant result that this terrible struggle has been able to go on as it has for nearly three years with so comparatively few signs of exhaustion of man-power upon either side. In spite of all the appalling and astonishing new engines and methods of destruction which have been introduced, the death-rate, so far as can be gathered, has been kept down to only a little above the new "crop" of young soldiers who can be called to the Colours each year, which is, perhaps, in some respects, a rather doubtful triumph to claim for medicine.

The doctor can influence the death-rate in war in the super advances and revolutionary improvements effected in the treatment of wounds. Barely fifty years ago it was no uncommon thing for twenty, forty, and even sixty per cent. of the wounded to die in hospital or camp as a result of wound infections. The death-rate, for instance, in some military hospitals as lately as the Civil War, when the dreaded hospital gangrene got into the wards, was over 40 per cent., almost regardless of the size or seriousness of the wounds. By the new science of bacteriology this danger has been almost wiped out, each improvement in methods cutting down the death-rate lower and lower, until in the present war upon the Western Front actually 95 to 97 per cent. of the wounded recover.

at the Vimy Ridge has been so swift as to discount the German plans—these are questions which only the future can answer. What we know is that such a line cannot in the nature of the ground offer a position comparable to that on the Vimy Ridge, or to that on the heights of Bapaume.

Douai is the great railway centre of the neighbourhood, ganglion of lines to Lille, to Lens, to Valenciennes, to Mons, to Cambrai, equally important as a centre of roads and canals. It is a town of some industrial importance, too, and with the value as a military depot to be expected of a place of 40,000 people. That it was a fortress in the old days is not relevant to the present war, and, indeed, the fortifications were demolished long since. It was Flemish till Louis XIV. took it for France two centuries and half ago, and the most beautiful thing in the city, the charming crowned belfry of the Hôtel de Ville—let us hope it survives the war—bears on its summit a lion, who upholds the banner of Flanders. But the name of Douai is best known in our country by the English Roman Catholic version of the scriptures, which, because its Old Testament was published there 300 years ago, we still call the Douai Bible.—Daily Telegraph.

GERMAN BRUTALITY TO BRITISH WOUNDED.

PRISONERS "BUTCHERED ON THE WAY."

A Berne correspondent of the *Times* writes:

One of the saddest fruits of the war is the revelation which it has produced of the nature of the German women. Allied to this, has been the disclosure of the character of the German Red Cross women have behaved to British wounded—not in isolated cases, but in many numerous or cases, systematically and on set purpose—within a brutality which, a few years ago, we would have thought incredible in any women with white skins. Bits of stories, scraps of evidence, have, of course, reached us since the very beginning of the war, but they are listed on our men now in Switzerland, released from German prison camps, their accounts of their experiences in the early days of the war give some idea of what the volume of testimony will be when all our prisoners now in Germany come home. When that testimony has been, as it must be, properly compiled and sifted, it will make a monument of German shame which will stand as a warning to the world for generations.

One has heard before how German women refused to give British wounded any food or drink on their long journey through Germany, so that they suffered unutterable anguish for days together; in the mass—hundreds, one after another—that one gets any idea of the universality and the horror of it all. There are in Switzerland to-day scores and scores of men of all ranks who had the same experiences. Food and drink were denied them (by women wearing the Red Cross) and the denial was accompanied with the filthiest abuse.

It was the common amusement of these Red Cross women to tempt our men, who were in the last extremity of hunger and thirst, by holding food and drink out to them to try to make them snatch at it, and then drawing it away. Many scores of our men, begging for a drink, had coffee, or water, or soup tendered to them; and then at the last moment, the gentle nurse would spit in the cup or glass, and seldom over the men, then suffering, had to drink the defiled stuff while the women looked on and laughed. An equally common entertainment with these women was to offer a wounded man a glass, perhaps, of water, then, standing just outside his reach, to pour it slowly on to the ground, or down between the station platform and the railway carriage.

SOLDIERS KINDER THAN NURSES.

The French prisoners, we know, were not regarded with the same hatred as the British. One of our officers was wearing a pair of blue French trousers. Putting off his tunic, he appealed to a Red Cross nurse for food, and she, taking him to be French, gave it him. In his excitement, he inadvertently said: "Oh, thank you, the Germans, being his nationality, he snatched the food away again. Sometimes French officers were able to get food which they generously shared in secret with British comrades. In at least one case the behaviour of the Red Cross women was too much even for the German soldiers.

Two of our officers were in a railway carriage with nine wounded German privates. The latter, at every station, were pitted with food and drink and cigarettes, but the British officers were merely called "English swine" and given nothing. This went on for over 24 hours until the German soldiers could stand it no longer. Then they refused to pretend any more, and finished their own portion hurriedly and asked for more. Keeping what they received out of sight till the train was in motion, they gave it to the British officers.

Cases of physical maltreatment of our wounded by the German nurses were just as common, as systematic, as was the refusal to give them nourishment. The nurses would come through the train, dressing and attending to the wounds of the Germans. Finding British wounded mixed up with their own countrymen, they never (as far as can be ascertained) dreamed of giving them any assistance. It was their regular practice to pass by with an insult, perhaps to spit on a wounded man, and not seldom, being angry or leg bandaged, they deliberately struck the injured man, or kicked him, to give pain.

In one case a British officer was lying among several Germans, and a nurse passed him with the usual insult. Another nurse, following behind, heard it, and said: "I will bandage your arm for you. I have lived in England, and have been well treated there." He thanked her. But, he said, "I don't want you to attend to me because you have been in England, but because of the Cross upon your sleeve." The bandage was half undone. She knotted it up again hurriedly and so roughly that, in his opinion, she meant to hurt him—as she did horribly—and left him without a word.

PROSTITUTION OF THE RED CROSS.

This last case is typical and symptomatic. The essential fact is that the German Red Cross is that it is the Red Cross only in name. In reality it is nothing more or less than a branch of the German military organization for the glorification of the German arms. There are many officials of the International Red Cross and of the Red Cross Societies of neutral countries who have come to know something of the German Red Cross during the war. Not one of them will challenge the statement just made. The German Red Cross is not inspired by any of the tender and lofty motives of the Geneva Convention. When illustrations of truth as well as anything in this life frequently happens that, at large stations in Germany, trains of wounded coming from the front and of troops going to it arrive together and stand side by side. The German Red Cross nurses always stand first the men who are well and are going to fight. It is these who get the food and drink and cigarettes, while the wounded wait. The wounded can wait.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

THE DANGER-DREAM.

Although he could confront open peril without any sign of fear, curiously enough the presence of a strong current of electricity had always given him shudders of apprehension.

As a boy he hated the devices which shocked you for a penny, and not for a sovereign, would he try to snatch the coin from a bowl of electrified water. As a man he had once been shown round one of the London sub-stations by a young engineer, who escorted him behind the lofty switchboard, with its fascinating coloured glow-lamps, opened a case, patted familiarly a copper bar, and announced that it was at that moment "alive" with 6,000 volts. Standing on glass as they were, the engineer explained, there was no danger, but the visitor felt a remarkable sense of relief when he was well outside the building and the purr of the machinery died away.

Why he should have this strained "worked-up" feeling to-night, when the sky was clear and the only thunder was that of the guns, he could not quite make out; all he knew was that he lay on his hard bed of planks and rugs, waiting for something that should liberate him from the abominable oppression. All else—the sunset hues, the occasional arrival of a spent shell, the voices that reached his ear yet carried no meaning—seemed vague and unreal. He was totally unprepared for the vision, nightmare, or hallucination—whatever it was—which brooded over him during the next hour.

Before him loomed a rank of big dynamos, filling the air with a husky, metallic droning, each one at its "brush" exhibiting a line of awful little crackling sparks of vivid green. He looked round for the switchboard; there it stood, high and black and grim, pointed with white insulators, and every now and then a ghastly blue flame would spit from some unexpected corner as a lever dropped and a contact broke.

The humming of the dynamos ascended note by note until it became an infernal, deafening screech, which assaulted every nerve in his head. What puzzled him, even in the midst of helpless terror, was the inhuman blindness of it all. No friendly figure, calm with knowledge, walked casually along the platform of the switchboard to glance at gauges or move controls—nothing human relieved the iron mechanism of the place or the blank spaces of gloom beyond. And yet those mysterious glow-lamps looked uncommonly like steady, sinister eyes watching him.

The air grew hot, quick with that foreboding of danger which, when crimson lightning flickered through distant clouds, induced in him responsive thrills. The sparks sizzled, and snapped. Deliberately he turned behind that frowning switchboard-face, with its staring, basilisk gaze, and gazed at the high-tension bars in their cage. What would happen, he wondered, if he placed one hand on the terrible copper strip and "earthed" the other by grasping some part of exposed metal near? A blistering flash—a gust of mystic light, and oblivion, extinction?

He heard voices as he looked at the glimmering bars—voices that seemed to roar in his ears even louder than the devastating din of the dynamos. He put out his hand in an agony of attraction to touch that death-dealing horror; it was met by another hand, cool and fresh and comforting. He still gazed at the bar; it receded and became a long line of red-gold spires beyond the open door of the hut. Friendly voices, echoing, resounding as though through empty caverns, welcomed him back to earth. "You've been 'off' under the anaesthetic nearly an hour, old boy," said clear, confident tones he knew well. "A long job. We had to operate at once. Appendix. But we've succeeded and you'll be all serene in a month, provided you don't try leap-frog or tough pastry."

He sighed, smiled, and closed his eyes for healthy sleep; and the drover of the machinery of the other world died slowly away to a little troublesome humming in his brain.—Daily Mail.

BRITISH PRISONERS BUTCHERED.

Paris, April 10th.—Under the heading "They are Murdering Our Prisoners," the *Echo de Paris* publishes a letter from a native of Alsace, who was for some time in a camp of German prisoners in France.

After saying that the speech delivered by the Prussian Minister of War, General von Stein, alleging that German prisoners of war were ill-treated was only a pretext for the ill-treatment of British and French prisoners of war, the journal's informant quotes a letter from a German officer, Lieutenant Jacobi, son of the Registrar at Mülhausen, to his father in which the lieutenant wrote: "I have been entrusted with a task of which every good German should be proud. My work consists in going to and from between France and Germany in charge of droves of human cattle. Eight days ago we left France with 400 British, and some hundreds of French. On arriving at Frankfurt we discovered that we had lost on the journey 280 British and a number of 'red breeches.' To the Alsatian's inquiry subsequently of Jacobi's father as to what could have become of the missing prisoners, he received the reply, 'They were butchered on the way.'"



Yet in the game—Sargol makes Pany, Porvish People Plump and Popular

SARGOL, the concentrated food that puts on good, healthy flesh, sometimes at the rate of a pound a day, builds up the thin and weak, brings back the rosy blush of health, rounds out the skinny, scrawny figures to lines of beauty and plumpness, does it easy, quickly and effectively.

You don't understand it! Well, to tell the truth, neither do we. But after a long series of costly experiments we "hit upon an idea" and produced a combination of tissue building elements, which have performed wonders in making thin people plump and fat. Sargol was made to put flesh on thin folks, but we don't understand one-half the other remarkable things it does for the thin and underdeveloped, the pale and the weak, the dull and the listless. It is not a drug nor a stimulant, but can be best classed as a concentrated food with high tissue-building qualities. A food that creates rich, red blood, builds brain and brawn, hardens flabby muscles and makes even a confirmed dyspeptic "sit up and take notice." In building tissue it has a higher value than good beefsteak or eggs.

Sargol helps you to assimilate your food, to get the utmost good out of every mouthful. Take it with your meals for a few days, the test will tell. See how your digestion has improved, how the blue melancholy feeling goes, how good your meals taste.

A few days more and you begin to take on flesh. You look better, act better, you can do more, do it quicker and easier. Your friend slaps you on the shoulder and says: "Hello, Bill, you're looking fine, never saw you looking better."

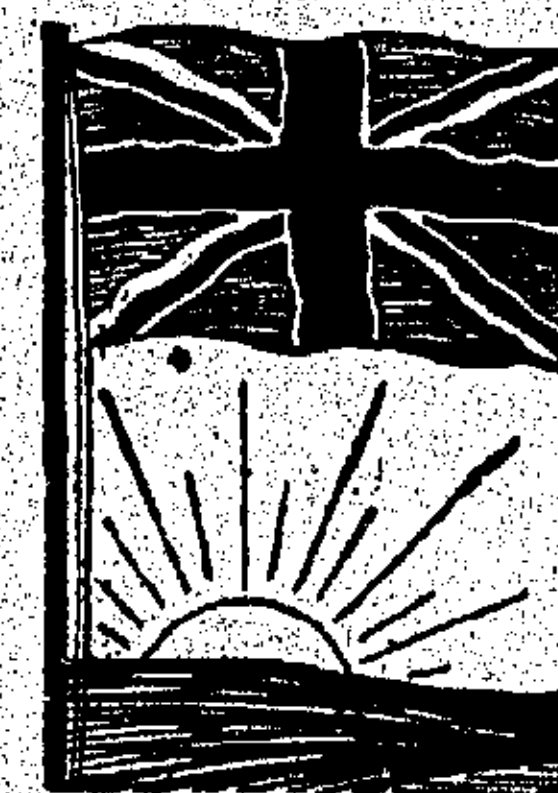
But you don't need to be told this. You know it yourself. You know you are gaining weight, feeling more fit than you have felt for years.

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[37-5]



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[383-2]

INDIAN CHIEFS' WAR OFFERS.

MUNIFICENT AND VARIED GIFTS TO THE EMPIRE.

The remarkable flow of gifts and assistance by Indian chiefs and noblemen toward the war continues without ceasing, and the Viceroy almost daily receives valuable offers from some part of India.

Among recent notable gifts are those of the Maharajah of Patiala, who has raised two corps of mule drivers and a complete camel corps, and will defray their entire expense during the continuance of the war. The Khan of Kalat, Baluchistan, has given 100 camels. The Rajah of Manipur has raised a double company of infantry, costing 10,000 rupees, and will partly defray its cost in the field, and train a reserve of 100 men, costing 22,000 rupees yearly.

The Chiefs of Jind, Maler, Kotla and Faridkot and a number of the feudatory States of Behar and Orissa have given 50,000 rupees for two aeroplanes; the Bharatpur State 50,000 rupees, and the Panna State 10,000 rupees for war purposes.

AID IN MESOPOTAMIA.

The Palitana State gave one mile of railway and 30 wagons for Mesopotamia; the Ratlam State will maintain a hospital for British troops at Indore; the Maharajah of Sirohi supports a convalescent home for British officers from Mesopotamia at Mount Abu; and the Maharajah of Dholpur has given a motor-car for the nursing sisters at Basra.

The Maharajahs of Sirmur and Faridkot have given houses in Simla for officers, and the Kalsia of Durbhar has contributed the cost of the Sikh temple in Basra.

The special War Loan has reached 26,500,000.

THE PROTECTORATES' PLACE IN THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCE.

A British East African Correspondent writes to the *Morning Post*, London, as follows:—

At the approaching Imperial Conference the Protectorates are to be collectively voiced by the Colonial Secretary. This is the medium through which the immeasurable possibilities, the vast significance of our real Tropical Empire are to be presented at this epoch-making gathering. We should each be heard, and be represented by the living voice of one who belongs to the place. For instance, British East Africa has but a handful of white population (4,000), but we are the guardians of a land which, when peopled, must inevitably dominate the position of all Tropical Africa. Our highlands are the Heligoland of the area north of the Zambesi, and sort of the Nubian desert. They control the east and west and the north and south main routes. In addition to this we can supply America in cotton, Brazil in coffee, Argentina in maize, Russia in flax, Virginia in pencil cedar, and can grow anything we like, from coconuts to edelweiss. How may the bureaucratic sense this? It is vital that our real value to Empire be depicted in terms of power—not in statistics of ease.

"ASAHI BEER."



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, 31st July.—
Noon—Auction of Valuable Leasehold Property from the Liquidators of Messrs. Jones & Co., at Sales Rooms, by Mr. Geo. P. Lamont.
Monday, 18th Aug.—
2 p.m.—Auction of Valuable Leasehold Property at Sales Rooms, by Messrs. High & Hough.
Monday, 27th Aug.—
Noon—Auction of Valuable Leasehold Property from the Liquidators of Messrs. White & Co., at Sales Rooms, by Mr. Geo. P. Lamont.

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Cargo carried on through Bills of Lading from HONGKONG to BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON, PORT ELIZABETH, CAPE TOWN with transshipment at COLOMBO to Steamers of the INDIAN AFRICAN LINE.

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FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
YANFA, CEBU and ILOILO	"TEAN"	On 1st June, Noon.
NEWBOWANG	"HOHOU"	On 2nd June, Noon.
SHANGHAI	"YINGHOU"	On 3rd June, 11 A.M.
	"CHENAN"	On 5th June, 4 P.M.

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"HAHONG"	Capt. J. W. Evans	TUESDAY, 5th June, at Noon.

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Consignees are reminded of the necessity to apply to the Company's Agents regarding arrival of consignments expected of which they have received documents or advice. Any damaged packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the Consignees, and the Company's Surveyors, Messrs. GODDARD & DOUGLAS, at 10 A.M. on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS. All Claims must be presented within ten days of the Steamer's arrival here after which date they cannot be recognized. No Claims will be admitted after the goods have left the Godowns. For Further Information, Passage Fare, Freight, Handbooks, Dates of Sailing, etc., apply to

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NAGASAKI, KOBE and YOKOHAMA via NIKKO MARU FRIDAY, 15th June, at 11 A.M.

SHANGHAI and KOBE via MISHIMA MARU TUESDAY, 5th June, at 11 A.M.

ASAHI MARU TUESDAY, 5th June, at 11 A.M.

SHANGHAI, KOBE and YOKOHAMA via SUWA MARU MONDAY, 18th June, at 11 A.M.

KIRIN MARU SATURDAY, 16th June, at 11 A.M.

ATSUTA MARU MONDAY, 2nd July, at 11 A.M.

TOTOVI MARU THURSDAY, 7th June, at 11 A.M.

SHANGHAI MOJI and KOBE via RANGOON MARU SATURDAY, 9th June, at 11 A.M.

KOBE and YOKOHAMA via BENTEN MARU WEDNESDAY, 30th May, at 11 A.M.

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KOKEA MARU	9,000 14 knots	TUES, 3rd July.
SIBERIA MARU	18,000 18 knots	TUES, 17th July.
TENYO MARU	18,000 18 knots	FRI, 27th July.
	22,000 21 knots	FRI, 10th August.

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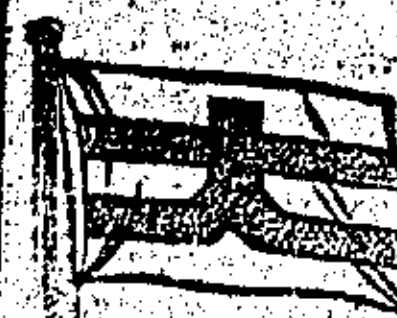
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